

Prosecutors oppose bail Khashoggi

NEW YORK (AP) — Prosecutors filed a notice of appeal Wednesday to oppose allowing Saudi financier Adnan Khashoggi out of jail on a \$10-million bond. A federal judge ruled Tuesday that Khashoggi could post the bond while awaiting trial on charges he aided Ferdinand and Lucinda Marcos against millions of dollars allegedly funneled from the Philippines treasury. The judge also ruled Khashoggi must wear an electronic monitoring bracelet if he is freed. Khashoggi, who had been a fugitive until his arrest in Switzerland April 18, was extradited to New York last week and has been in jail while U.S. District Judge John Keenan in Manhattan considered his bail application. Keenan's ruling Tuesday granting bail fell on Khashoggi's 54th birthday. His lawyer, Robert Morville, said Tuesday evening he has raised enough money to meet the bail, but that paperwork prevented Khashoggi's immediate release. Wednesday, prosecutors filed a notice with the 2nd U.S. circuit court of appeals that they planned to appeal the bail package and file a motion to stay Keenan's order.

Jordan Times

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Palestinian children in Qalqilya pose for photographs as they leave school, with Israeli soldiers apparently opting to ignore their "V-for-victory" sign.

PLO reportedly soften conditions for elections

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) has offered softened conditions for elections in the Israeli-occupied territories which could be acceptable to some sections of the Israeli government, Israeli newspapers reported Wednesday.

The Jerusalem Post and Haaretz said they had obtained a U.S. memorandum which quoted the PLO as saying it would accept elections in the West Bank and Gaza Strip if Egypt and the United States sent observers and Israel agreed to swap land for peace.

Israeli officials said the report, if true, would mark the first time the Tunis-based PLO had offered conditions acceptable to the Labour Party of Vice-Premier Shimon Peres, a key partner in Israel's government.

In Tunis, senior PLO official Yasser Abed Rabbo said Washington had told Moscow it might throw its weight behind the Palestinian idea that elections should be tied to an overall settlement.

"If this American idea which was told to the Soviets is true, that they are thinking of the need to find a political connection with the final status, then this could mean something new," Abed Rabbo said.

The PLO and most Palestinians reject elections without guarantees that they will lead to Israeli withdrawal and self-determination for the Palestinians.

Israel's Labour Party supports giving up land for peace but shares power in a "national unity" government with Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's rightist Likud Party, which is firmly opposed to yielding any of the land occupied in the 1967 war.

Lawmaker Avraham Burg of Labour confirmed that Israel had learned of the PLO's latest views from a U.S. government document outlining PLO reactions to Shamir's initiative.

The document was relayed to Israel by Soviet Middle East envoy Genady Terasov, who met an aide to Peres in Paris this week after holding talks with PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat in Tunis, said an Israeli official who insisted on anonymity.

Another Labour legislator, Aryeh Eliav, said the PLO's positions were also relayed to Israel by two aides to Arafat during a conference in Vienna, Austria, earlier this month attended by representatives of both Labour and Likud.

"At this conference I definitely heard from the PLO representatives that they are ready for elections if Israel will say in one way or the other that at the end of the process Israel is ready to trade territories for peace," Eliav told the AP. "They said this very clearly."

According to Israeli sources, the PLO already has proposed forming a delegation of 10 residents from the occupied territories and two Palestinian-Americans to meet with Israeli officials to discuss the elections proposal.

The sources, who spoke to the AP on condition of anonymity, said the team would eventually emerge as candidates in the elections and would be assured victory because of PLO backing.

According to the sources and newspaper reports, other conditions set by the PLO included:

- Army withdrawal to predetermined positions on election day;
- Allowing international observers for the voting. The Jerusalem Post said a new element was PLO agreement to an Egyptian-American "coordinating team" fulfilling this role instead of U.N. supervision;
- Israel's assurance that Palestinian candidates would have freedom of speech and immunity from prosecution;

— Acceptance by Israel of U.N. Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, which call on Israel to give up occupied land, and Israel's recognition of the political rights of the Palestinian people.

The PLO conditions were still at odds with positions adopted by Likud.

Among PLO demands were acceptance of the land-for-peace formula and giving the vote to Palestinian residents in Arab Jerusalem.

Likud, at a meeting two weeks ago, officially adopted hardline stances against the PLO demands and said the 19-month Palestinian uprising must stop before balloting commences.

Israel's initiative calls for electing Palestinians in the occupied territories to negotiate with Israel on an interim self-rule plan, with talks to be held later on the final status of the occupied territories.

In Washington, the Bush administration said Tuesday that Senate restrictions on U.S. contacts with the PLO "will be taken into account" as the United States pursues a dialogue with the PLO.

But President George Bush also emphasized that he considers the restrictions to be unconstitutional and an infringement on his conduct of U.S. diplomacy.

Bush did not explicitly rule out U.S. meetings with Salah Khalaf, who is second-in-command to Arafat, or other officials suspected of either plotting or carrying out attacks against Americans.

The amendment was watered down before its 97-1 passage.

The State Department, in an unusual move, announced Bush's position in a statement by spokeswoman Margaret Tutwiler. It was issued after Secretary of State James Baker had talked to the president and to several senators.

The president strongly believes that legislation that tries to restrict or manage the conduct of diplomacy is an infringement on presidential prerogatives and is unconstitutional," the statement said.

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King, Queen return

AMMAN (Petra) — Their Majesties King Hussein and Queen Noor returned home Wednesday at the conclusion of a private visit to the United Kingdom during which the King underwent medical examinations whose results were good and reassuring.

The King also conducted a number of political meetings related to Arab issues and delivered lectures touching on the developments in the Middle East. The King was accompanied by His Royal Highness Prince Mohammad, the King's personal representative, and Her Royal Highness Princess Taghrid.

Upon return home, King Hussein and Queen Noor were received by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, royal family members, Prime Minister Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker and senior officials.



His Majesty King Hussein is received upon his return home Wednesday by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan and His Royal Highness

Prince Abdullah Ibn Al Hussein (Photo by Youssef Al 'Allan)

Private sector to have role in decision-making

AMMAN (Petra) — The government plans to involve the private sector in decision-making and policies concerning economic issues in working out trade agreements with Arab and other friendly countries and in organising industrial fairs in Jordan and abroad, Prime Minister Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker announced Wednesday.

The government attaches great attention to the industrial sector and will continue to provide it with all facilities because it be-

lieves industry is of utmost importance not only in providing revenues through exports but also because it continues to absorb Jordanian work force and reduce unemployment, the prime minister said at a meeting with the chairman and members of the board of directors of the Amman Chamber of Industry.

The prime minister heard an outline of the chamber's operations and activities by its board chairman, Khalidoun Abu Hassan, in the presence of De-

puty Prime Minister and Minister of State for Economic Affairs Taher Al Masri.

Abu Hassan pointed out that the chamber was looking forward to contributing to the government's endeavours to overcome the present economic crisis in the country.

Sharif Zaid said the government was keen on pooling the private and public sectors efforts in order to stimulate the national economy and develop production

in quality and quantity so that Jordan can compete in markets abroad.

The prime minister urged the chamber of industry to provide manufactured products required by the local markets at reasonable prices to help end reliance on imported products. He reaffirmed the government's commitment to support the industrial sector to enable it to carry out its role and bolster the national economy.

More arrests in China

PEKING (R) — China rounded up more than 3,000 people in recent sweep against political dissidents and common criminals, according to a newspaper report that reached Peking Wednesday.

The Xinhua daily said 3,182 people were rounded up in the eastern province of Jiangsu alone in a three-day campaign that ended July 15.

The daily, published in Nanjing, capital of Jiangsu, did not say how many of those arrested were common criminals. But it said 158 criminal groups had been smashed and 625 of their members taken into custody.

Among those picked up by police was Xu Chong, described as a leader of an unofficial workers' union in the eastern city of Hefei and Qi Mingliang, a worker.

They were arrested in a hotel in Nanjing, the paper said. Both were alleged to have stolen unspecified "military goods" during the unrest in Peking last month. Government officials have charged that weapons were stolen from soldiers who moved into Peking to crush student protests June 3.

Also arrested was Cheng Mingxia, described as the "minister of finance" of the unofficial student union in Peking. She was said to be carrying more than 21,000 Yuan (\$5,700) when captured.

The daily said some of those in custody had given themselves up.

China has already reported more than 1,000 arrests in three other provinces over the same three-day period in a drive against political dissent and crimes ranging from robbery to dealing in pornography.

All of the arrests were disclosed in provincial newspapers and not the national press.

Western diplomats said this was to avoid alarming foreign tourists and investors, already concerned over the military crackdown in which hundreds, perhaps thousands, were killed.

Arab League said to freeze Lebanon efforts

KUWAIT (AP) — The Arab League Committee working to end Lebanon's 15-year civil war has decided to freeze its mediation effort because of Syria's refusal to accept Lebanon's army commander Michel Aoun as a negotiating partner, the Kuwait daily Al Qabas reported Wednesday.

"The key hurdle blocking the work of the three-member committee emanating from the Casablanca summit is the recognition of Aoun as a negotiating party," the paper said in a front-page story.

The 22-member Arab League decided at a summit held in Morocco in May that the heads of state of Saudi Arabia, Morocco and Algeria should try to negotiate a settlement to the Lebanon conflict by November.

Aoun has been battling Syrian-backed Lebanese since March 8 in the latest round of civil war fighting.

Al Qabas quoted Syrian President Hafez Al Assad as telling the three foreign ministers: "If our Lebanese allies accept Aoun as a negotiator on behalf of the other party, we will not accept him. This is a final and irreversible decision."

"Accordingly, the three-member committee has decided to freeze its activities for a short period of time, pending a solution to this snag," the paper said.

Al Qabas quoted Syrian Foreign Minister Farouk Al Sharaa as telling the Arab League committee "Syria is using all its weapons, be it political or military, to eliminate Aoun as a potential negotiator. Damascus considers this a strategic objective which cannot be overlooked."

The three foreign ministers have visited the Syrian capital twice since the mediation effort began.

The newspaper also quoted Sharaa as saying that Syria was putting pressure on other Lebanese rightist leaders to withdraw Aoun's card so that all demands be discussed in a positive manner.

In Beirut, police said five cargo ships easily ran the gauntlet of shellfire before dawn Wednesday to deliver food to Lebanon's rightist enclave controlled by Aoun.

A police spokesman said the vessels carried "a variety of canned food supplies including meat and vegetables."

He said two of the vessels dropped anchor at Beirut port in the city's eastern sector and three in the port of Jounieh 20 kilometres to the north in the Christian heartland.

He said gunners, deployed in west Beirut, fired "only six Howitzer shells" at the Aoun-controlled coastline as the ships steamed slowly into dock.

In contrast to the Al Qabas report, the prestigious daily Beirut newspaper Al Nahar said an "undeclared truce" had taken effect in the 19-week confrontation. The report could not be immediately confirmed.

Polish Communists fear destruction

WARSAW (R) — A Solidarity leader said Wednesday that Poland's Communist Party opposed forming a government because it feared it would fire thousands of Communist appointees and destroy the party's power base.

Another Solidarity leader said President Wojciech Jaruzelski had told him the Soviet Union, East Germany and Czechoslovakia would be unhappy with a Solidarity government in Poland.

The men were addressing Solidarity's 259-member parliamentary caucus amid apparent deadlock over the formation of a new government following Solidarity's crushing win over the Communists in last month's partly-free elections.

Solidarity's parliamentary leader Bronislaw Geremek said the ruling party would not allow a Solidarity government because it would be "a suicidal move."

"Our answer must be clear: Yes, we are ready to form a government," Geremek said.

Rural Solidarity leader Jozef Slisz said Jaruzelski, who was elected president last week, "told me that if we formed a government the neighbouring countries would not be happy. He named first of all East Germany, Czechoslovakia and Russia."

Jaruzelski, at a meeting Tues-

day with Solidarity leader Lech Walesa, offered Solidarity a minority role in a grand coalition with the Communists and their allies.

He ignored Walesa's demand for a Solidarity government. Walesa in turn refused to join a Communist-led government and said he would form a shadow cabinet to take over "sooner or later."

Parliament will debate a resignation letter from Prime Minister Mieczyslaw Rakowski Monday and Jaruzelski is consulting with political leaders on a replacement.

According to political sources the Communists and their allies have not yet chosen a candidate for prime minister and the task may be left to a weekend meeting of the party's policy-making central committee.

Contenders mentioned so far include party economic chief Wladyslaw Baka, Deputy Prime Minister Irenusz Sekula and Roman Malinowski, leader of the small Peasant Party allied to the Communists.

Slisz, who met Jaruzelski after Walesa, said Jaruzelski offered Solidarity seven seats in the cabinet, which currently has 21 members, saying this was "proportional to Solidarity's 35 per cent."

LDP pledges open process to elect Uno successor

TOKYO (Agencies) — A top governing party official pledged Wednesday that his party would use an open and fair process to select a successor for resigning Prime Minister Sosuke Uno.

Uno announced Monday he would resign as premier as well as party leader to take responsibility for the Liberal Democratic Party's (LDP) heavy losses in Sunday's elections for half the seats in the upper house of parliament.

"We have experienced defeat for the first time, and it was while I was in charge, so I am responsible," said Ryutaro Hashimoto, LDP secretary general. "All I can say is I will do my best so that fair procedures will be established to select the next prime minister."

Hashimoto said the party's election management committee would decide the process and timing of the selection Thursday.

Uno was chosen as prime minister two months ago by his predecessor, Noboru Takeshita, after the LDP failed for weeks to find a qualified, willing candidate. Many people criticised that process for being conducted behind closed doors.

Takeshita stepped down to take responsibility for an influence-peddling scandal that tainted many LDP leaders.

Hashimoto, speaking in a nationally televised interview, said he was "impressed by the Japan Socialist Party's (JSP) victory" in the elections, and attributed it to the hard work of its chairwoman, Takako Doi.

According to party sources, LDP plans to name a successor to Uno as early as next week but no frontrunner has yet emerged.

The party chief, who also becomes premier by virtue of the LDP's majority in the lower house, will be chosen in a ballot of its members of parliament around Aug. 2, the sources said.

The choice will be confirmed at a special session of parliament to be convened before Japan's traditional "obon" summer holidays begin Aug. 12.

More than six names are being bandied about as possible successors but, according to Japanese newspaper reports, Hashimoto is a leading contender.

Both Uno and Takeshita were chosen through closed-door negotiations among faction bosses, a practice often criticised by the mass media.

The last time a prime minister was elected by party ballot was Yasuhiro Nakasone in 1982.

The LDP still controls the government by virtue of its majority in the more powerful lower house, but the party may be forced to call a general election as early as September.

مكتبة الأمل

Kabul says rebel attack thwarted

KABUL (AP) — Afghan government forces repulsed an attack by guerrillas west of Kabul and killed 180 followers of hardline rebel leader Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, the government said Tuesday. Government troops also killed 38 rebels, including one of Hekmatyar's commanders, in retaliation for a guerrilla rocket and artillery attack outside Jalalabad, in eastern Afghanistan's Nangarhar province. That attack had left two soldiers dead and five wounded, the government said.

The government reported three Pakistani military personnel were killed when their jeep was attacked close to Surkh Diwar, southeast of Jalalabad.

Jalalabad has been the scene of fierce battles since Soviet troops backing the Kabul government completed their withdrawal in February.

The Afghan government repeatedly has accused Pakistan of fighting alongside the rebels, an allegation denied by Islamabad. Jalalabad is 720 kilometres west of the Pakistani border.

The reports of fighting and casualties could not be independently confirmed.

In Kabul, where at least 45 people have died in rocket attacks since Saturday, three more rockets injured five people, including three children, a commune said. One landed on a house just below the hilltop continental hotel, the city's largest.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Mohammad Nabi Amani said Hekmatyar's Hezb-e-Islami forces were not able to carry away the 180 dead in the Sunday attack in Maidan Shahr, capital of Wardak province. The rebels, who had attacked security positions outside the city, were only able to evacuate a "big number" of wounded, he said.

A large quantity of arms and ammunition was either captured or destroyed in the attack, which was not disclosed until Tuesday, the government said.

Hekmatyar is a leading member of the interim rebel government created to take over Afghanistan if the U.S.-backed rebels succeed in toppling the Soviet-backed government in Kabul.

Last week, the rival Jamiat-e-Islami guerrilla faction alleged that Hekmatyar ordered the massacre earlier this month of 30 Jamiat rebels. The hardline fundamentalist Hezb-e-Islami called the allegations "rubbish."

In the Nangarhar attack, the government said the 38 dead included Zainulla Hamdard, one of Hekmatyar's commanders. It said 48 rebels were injured, including Ehsanullah, a commander from an unidentified rebel group.

Elsewhere, the government said army troops ambushed guerrillas in Herat province, which

borders Iran, killing six rebels and capturing arms and ammunition.

In southern Kandahar, near the Pakistani border, guerrillas killed one soldier and government forces retaliated by killing 14 rebels, the government said.

Afghan anti-communist insurgents claimed Tuesday that they had intercepted government communications indicating the Soviet embassy had been hit by rebel rockets during two weeks of rebel attacks.

A rebel-controlled news agency said the guerrillas rocketed the embassy complex between July 3 and July 17, killing a total of 28 people.

The claim could not be independently confirmed.

Kabul food situation

Afghan guerrillas who tried to starve Kabul into submission last winter may try squeeze the capital's food supplies once more.

International aid workers and security sources say the Mujahideen have stopped virtually all trade between Pakistan and Kabul.

The Salang Highway linking Kabul with the Soviet border remains open, but a foreign diplomat said the rebels had halted trade with Pakistan to put pressure on the city.

"When people get desperate, morality is not so important," he said.

At this time of year, when the Kabul government should be stocking up in anticipation of winter, prices would normally be falling. Instead they are rising.

"Hoarding is going on," said Brian Stockwell, head of the United Nations World Food Programme in Kabul.

"The traders will bring it out slowly so that prices stay up at as high a level as the market will stand."

In one week wheat flour, used to make the flat, unleavened bread that dominates the average Afghan's diet, has gone up from 720 afghanis to 780 (\$2 to \$2.23 at the unofficial rate) for seven kilograms.

A 16-kg tin of cooking oil has risen 26 per cent to 6,800 afghanis (\$19) in a month, while average wages remain around 3,000-4,000 afghanis a month.

Prices overall are about double what they were last year but well below last winter's levels when guerrilla efforts to blockade the Salang Highway across the Hindu Kush Mountains caused severe shortages.

Wheat touched a peak of 1,200 afghanis and many Kabulites braved bitter cold to begin queuing early in the morning to ensure their families had bread.

People did not starve, but only an enormously expensive Soviet airlift kept Kabul going.



Women inspect damage caused by weeks of shelling across Beirut

U.S. approves Lebanon aid, rejects warship escort for food

WASHINGTON (AP) — The U.S. administration announced Tuesday that it would give \$2 million in emergency aid to Lebanon but rejected suggestions that it send naval vessels to protect shipments against the threat of Syrian attacks.

The emergency assistance was approved by President George Bush at the request of the International Committee for the Red Cross (ICRC) to provide food and medical supplies for victims of the country's 15-year civil war.

The United States is also providing \$14 million worth of basic food through private voluntary organizations, to nourish about 400,000 Lebanese affected by the fighting.

Details of the American aid were released by Assistant U.S. Secretary of State for Middle Eastern Affairs John Kelly to the House of Representatives Subcommittee on Europe and the Middle East.

Kelly outlined the administration's policy on Lebanon after a series of witnesses from private Lebanese-American organizations described the acute food

and fuel shortages triggered by the civil war's worst round of fighting which began last March.

He denied contentions by some witnesses that U.S. food supplies were being diverted by Syrian troops who have mounted a naval blockade of rightist-controlled ports along the Mediterranean coast, in retaliation for a blockade of militia controlled ports.

In response to a question from the panel's chairman, Representative Lee Hamilton, on whether the administration had considered an armed naval escort of the supply ships, Kelly said:

"I doubt very seriously that there would be much support in the Congress for the active involvement of U.S. warships in attempting to break this blockade. I think this blockade can be eliminated through persuasion and diplomacy."

The thrust of U.S. policy is to lobby in the Arab World, especially with Syria and Iraq, for acceptance of an Arab League initiative to bring about a ceasefire and lifting of the blockades, Kelly said. The six-week effort has failed to yield results, he

conceded.

"We are waiting for an Arab League decision, an Arab League action. There is no U.S. initiative, there is no U.S. separate plan. These are the people who have a realistic chance of solving the problem there," Kelly said.

Representative Lawrence Smith said he was "stunned" that the State Department's only policy was to support other countries' initiatives.

In a sharp exchange with Kelly, who served as U.S. ambassador to Beirut until last year, Smith asked whether the diplomat had checked with Congress on the question of naval escorts.

"I favour it. How do you like that? And if you ask me, I also think that if the United States showed the flag when it went in there with these ships carrying only emergency medical supplies, food and fuel... the Syrians would back off," Smith said.

"You think the Syrians are ready to get into a war with the United States over shipments of vegetable oil and wheat?" he added.

Sanaa says Mossad agents attacked Yemenia office

SANAA (AP) — North Yemen Wednesday accused the Israeli secret service Mossad of raiding its national airline office at Istanbul airport in Turkey.

"Mossad elements attacked the office manager, and destroyed the furniture after searching the office," the North Yemen News Agency (SABA) reported.

It said the attack occurred Saturday night as Yemeni airlines (Yemenia) staff were preparing for the weekly Istanbul-Sanaa flight.

"The government has expressed to the Turkish embassy in

Sanaa its condemnation of such a criminal act that proves to the world the nature of the Zionist enemy and its various organs," the agency said.

It said the government also requested that Turkish authorities ensure adequate protection for Yemeni airline and consular workers and other Yemeni nationals in Turkey "against any aggressive acts from the Zionist entity and its agents."

No further details were given.

Sudan relief official quits

KHARTOUM (R) — The top United Nations official in Sudan has resigned in a shake-up aimed at streamlining famine relief efforts, diplomats said.

They said Bryan Wannop, Sudan representative of the U.N. Development Programme (UNDP), quit the world body after it told him he would be transferred to Sri Lanka.

Michael Priestley, the U.N. secretary-general's special representative in neighbouring Ethiopia, will soon arrive in Khartoum to take over Lifeline Sudan, the U.N. relief operation, Western diplomats said.

Kollek criticises tax raids during curfew on Abu Tor

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AP) — Jerusalem's Israeli mayor, Teddy Kollek has criticised tax raids conducted in a mixed Arab-Jewish neighbourhood that was placed under a curfew by police earlier this week.

"People may think that curfew was declared for tax collection purposes. This is an unhealthy, wrong mixture and an example of bad judgment," the 78-year-old Kollek said Tuesday as he toured the hilltop village of Abu Tor.

The neighbourhood, once a symbol of Arab-Jewish coexistence, has been disrupted by the 19-month Palestinian uprising.

Roadblocks and Palestinian flags are a frequent sight on the winding streets of the eastern Arab part of Abu Tor. Walls of the stone houses are decorated with nationalistic slogans.

The Jews living on the hilltop can sometimes see black columns of smoke from burning tyres and the white clouds of teargas.

On Monday, police imposed a curfew on the Arab part of Abu Tor, a rare measure in Jerusalem, where a total of five curfews have been declared since the Palestinian revolt began Dec. 8, 1987.

Police spokesman Uzi Sandour said police decided to impose a curfew after a series of firebomb and arson attacks as well as "acts of arson, the blocking of roads, the hoisting of flags and the writing of slogans."

He cited at least 10 firebomb attacks on paramilitary border police patrols in Abu Tor in the last two weeks and said the aim of the curfew was to help police do their work.

Residents of Abu Tor said they heard police broadcast commands in Arabic through loudspeakers in their jeeps Monday night, and some reported hearing gunshots.

Police arrested about a dozen suspected ringleaders in the uprising, but the curfew also was accompanied by tax raids.

A combined team of police and income tax authorities raided the village Tuesday, confiscating electric appliances to enforce the payment of municipal, income and other taxes.

Non-payment of taxes is a major tactic of the uprising, and many Arabs from Jerusalem have avoided paying taxes to the Israeli occupation authorities in response to calls from the rebellion's underground leadership.

Kollek demanded that the curfew be used for "security" purposes only.

"They have a whole year to collect taxes, and they can ask for police protection if necessary. Using the curfew to collect taxes casts a shadow of doubt on the curfew," Kollek said.

Police commander Arye Bibi said on Israel television that police had only "security" considerations in mind, but "could not prevent tax collectors from collecting their taxes."

The curfew, expected to last until the end of the week, was the first major police action in Abu Tor since the house-to-house search for suspects in October 1988. Then, at least seven people were arrested.

Abu Tor, which overlooks the walled Old City, is a treasury of biblical memories and war tales. Its name comes from Ahmad Abu Tor, a senior commander in the armies of Salaheddin, who defeated the Christian Crusaders.

It also marks the site of the "Hall of Evil Counsel" where tradition says Joseph Caiaphas, the high priest of Jerusalem, convened a group of jealous religious leaders and conspired to do away with Jesus.

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Iran Air demands American compensation

NICOSIA (Agencies) — Iran's state-owned airline has said it should get compensation from the United States government for the Iran Air Airbus downed July 3, 1988 by missile fired from a U.S. warship in the Gulf.

The official Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA), monitored in Nicosia, quoted an Iran Air statement as saying the carrier and the passengers' families should be paid compensation directly since the airline "is a commercial company and functioning under international trade regulations."

All 290 passengers aboard

Flight 650 were killed when the Airbus was shot down by the missile cruiser USS Vincennes. Among them were 250 Iranians and 40 citizens of other countries.

The U.S. State Department said last week it would pay up to \$250,000 in compensation for each full-time wage-earner and up to \$100,000 for all others killed in the incident.

It said the money, while destined for the families, would be paid through selected intermediaries, either government or private to make sure it went where intended.

IRNA reported the head of

Iran's Civil Aviation Organisation, Mohammad Nabi Habibi, as saying last week that Iran would not accept the compensation unless the United States was condemned for the incident by a court.

A lawyer representing families of victims aboard the jet said the U.S. offer was inadequate and that the compensation should be paid directly to the families.

The State Department said the United States was not obliged under international law to pay any compensation, but recalled a pledge by then-President Ronald Reagan eight days after the incident that it would do so in keeping

with American "humanitarian traditions."

Iran is suing the U.S. at the World Court for compensation for the loss of the Airbus, shot down soon after taking off from the Iranian port of Bandar Abbas on a flight to Dubai in the southern Gulf.

The U.S. has said it would not compensate the Iranian government, which it said was partly responsible for the plane's destruction by allowing it to fly over an area where a naval battle was going on.

A U.S. military inquiry found that radar operators on the Vin-

ces, in the stress of a clash between the cruiser and Iranian gunboats, had mistaken the climbing jetliner for an F-14 jet-fighter on a descending course.

Reagan said after the incident that the United States would make payments for humanitarian reasons, but not to the Iranian government.

U.S. officials said they expected five of the governments whose nationals were killed in the tragedy to accept the compensation offer but an appropriate intermediary had to be found to arrange payments to relatives of the 250 Iranian victims.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION

7:30-8:00 Koran
8:00-8:30 Programme review
8:30-9:00 Children programme
9:00-9:30 Hi Squad
9:30-10:00 News for the Deaf
10:00-10:30 Religious programme
10:30-11:00 Health programme
11:00-11:30 Programme review
11:30-12:00 News in Arabic
12:00-12:30 Local series
12:30-1:00 Programme review
1:00-1:30 Local programme
1:30-2:00 News in Arabic
2:00-2:30 Arab film

PROGRAMME TWO
17:00-17:30 Musique du Coeur
17:30-18:00 News in French
18:00-18:30 Documentary
18:30-19:00 News in Hebrew
19:00-19:30 Varieties
19:30-20:00 News in Arabic
20:00-20:30 Bill Cosby Show
20:30-21:00 Beauty and the Beast
21:00-21:30 News in English
21:30-22:00 Feature film: "The Army of Shadows"

PRAYER TIMES
04:07 (Sunrise) Fajr
05:39 (Sunrise) Duha
12:42 Dhuhr
16:23 Asr
19:45 Maghreb
21:16 Isha

CHURCHES
St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swetifh Tel. 810740
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 632785

St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757
Terzian Church Tel. 623666
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541
Anglican Church Tel. 625383, Tel. 628543
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 775261
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751
Armenian International Church Tel. 685326
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811295
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 815817, 821264

WEATHER
Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.
Normal summer weather is expected and winds will be northwesterly moderate to strong with some rain.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS
NIGHT DUTY
St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swetifh Tel. 810740
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 632785

AMMAN:
Dr. Mahmoud Abu Mahfouth 793344
Dr. Abdul Rahman Jabr 770500
Dr. Mohammed Al Aneid 741291
Dr. Adnan Zaghoul 898140
First pharmacy 661912
Fardous pharmacy 778336
Al Asana pharmacy 670255
Nairouth pharmacy 623672
Al Salam pharmacy 636730
Yacoub pharmacy 644945
Shucriani pharmacy 637660

IRBID:
Dr. Jamal Bani Hani (—)
Al Sharaa pharmacy (985238)
ZARQA:
Dr. Rabea Attallah (—)
Khalifeh pharmacy 985417

EMERGENCIES
Civil Defence Department 661111
Civil Defence immediate 630341
Rescue 199
Fire Brigade 891228
Blood Bank 775121
Highway Police 843402
Traffic Police 896390
Public Security Department 630321
Hotel Complaints 605800
Price Complaints 661176
Water and Sewerage 897467
Complaints 787111
Complaints (directory assistance) 121
Overseas Calls 010230
Central Amman Telephone

Repairs: 623101
Abdali Telephone Repairs 661101
Jordan Television 773111
Radio Jordan 774111
Water Authority 680100
Jordan Electricity Authority 815615
Electric Power Company 636381
RJ Flight Information 08-53200
Queen Alia Intl. Airport 08-53200

HOSPITALS
AMMAN:
Husseini Medical Centre 813813/32
Khalidi Maternity, J. Amn. 642816
Abdali Maternity, J. Amn. 642412
Jabal Amman Maternity 642362
Mahas, J. Amman 636140
Palestine, Shucriani 664171/4
Shucriani Hospital 669131
University Hospital 845945
Al-Musader Hospital 667279
The Islamic, Abdali 666127/7
Al-Abdi, Abdali 664166
Italian, Al-Muhajir 771013
Al-Basheir, J. Ashrafieh 7751126
Army, Marka 891611/5
Queen Alia Hospital 6624050
Ansal Hospital 674155
ZARQA:
Zarga Govt. Hospital (09)983323
Zarga National Hospital (09)910771
Busna Hospital (09)96752
IRBID:
Princess Basma Hospital (02)275555
Greek Catholic Hospital (02)272775
Din Al-Nafes Hospital (02)247100
AQABA:
Princess Haya Hospital (03)314111

FOR THE TRAVELLER
07:30 Singapore, Kuala Lumpur (RJ)
10:00 Damascus (RJ)
10:15 Ankara, Istanbul (TK)
10:30 Baghdad (LA)
10:40 Cairo (MS)
10:45 Kuwait (KU)
10:50 Muscat, Abu Dhabi, Bahrain (GF)
16:00 Bucharest (RO)
17:25 Riyadh (SV)
18:15 Dubai (EK)
18:25 Amsterdam (KL)
19:25 Frankfurt (LH)
20:15 Zurich, Larnaca (SR)
21:05 London (BA)

ARRIVALS
Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)
07:30 Singapore, Kuala Lumpur (RJ)
10:00 Damascus (RJ)
10:15 Ankara, Istanbul (TK)
10:30 Baghdad (LA)
10:40 Cairo (MS)
10:45 Kuwait (KU)
10:50 Muscat, Abu Dhabi, Bahrain (GF)
16:00 Bucharest (RO)
17:25 Riyadh (SV)
18:15 Dubai (EK)
18:25 Amsterdam (KL)
19:25 Frankfurt (LH)
20:15 Zurich, Larnaca (SR)
21:05 London (BA)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)
09:15 Dubai (TU)

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport. Tel. (08)53200, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS
Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)
07:30 Singapore, Kuala Lumpur (RJ)
10:00 Damascus (RJ)
10:15 Ankara, Istanbul (TK)
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10:40 Cairo (MS)
10:45 Kuwait (KU)
10:50 Muscat, Abu Dhabi, Bahrain (GF)
16:00 Bucharest (RO)
17:25 Riyadh (SV)
18:15 Dubai (EK)
18:25 Amsterdam (KL)
19:25 Frankfurt (LH)
20:15 Zurich, Larnaca (SR)
21:05 London (BA)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)
09:15 Dubai (TU)

DEPARTURES
Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)
06:00 Agaba (RJ)
11:00 Doha (add.) (RJ)
11:00 Kuwait (add.) (RJ)
11:05 Rome (RJ)
11:45 Kuwait (add.) (RJ)
12:00 Rhodes (add.) (RJ)
12:00 Tripoli (add.) (RJ)
12:10 Athens (RJ)
12:10 Vienna, New York (RJ)
12:30 Vienna, Chicago, Los Angeles (RJ)
13:00 London (RJ)
13:15 Paris (RJ)
13:30 Larnaca (RJ)
13:45 Cairo (RJ)
14:00 Kuwait (RJ)
14:10 Jeddah (RJ)
14:15 Baghdad (RJ)
14:20 Cairo (RJ)
14:30 Dubai, Muscat (RJ)
14:35 Abu Dhabi (RJ)
14:45 Bahrain, Doha (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)
09:15 Dubai (TU)

22:30 Singapore, Kuala Lumpur (RJ)
22:45 Bangkok (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)
09:15 Dubai (TU)

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14:00 Kuwait (RJ)
14:10 Jeddah (RJ)
14:15 Baghdad (RJ)
14:20 Cairo (RJ)
14:30 Dubai, Muscat (RJ)
14:35 Abu Dhabi (RJ)
14:45 Bahrain, Doha (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)
09:15 Dubai (TU)

MARKET PRICES
Upper/lower prices in Jds per kg.
Apple (golden) 350 / 300
Apple (Kashan) 230 / 180
Apple (muskad) 280 / 240
Apple (red) 840 / 700
Banana 400 / 320
Banana (Mukammal) 350 / 300
Beans 250 / 220
Cabbage 30 / 40
Carrots 230 / 180
Cauliflower 220 / 150
Corn 180 / 140
Cucumbers 350 / 300
Eggplant 120 / 80
Garlic 780 / 650
Grapes 200 / 160
Grapes (red) 180 / 140
Lemon (yellow) 650 / 520
Lemon (green) 300 / 250
Marrow 360 / 320
Okra 300 / 250
Onion 300 / 250
Onion (dry) 150 / 110
Peas 500 / 400
Pepper (red) 180 / 140
Pepper (green) 180 / 140
Potato 230 / 200
Tomatoes 90 / 50

22:30 Singapore, Kuala Lumpur (RJ)
22:45 Bangkok (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)
09:15 Dubai (TU)

DEPARTURES
Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)
06:00 Agaba (RJ)
11:00 Doha (add.) (RJ)
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Carrots 230 / 180
Cauliflower 220 / 150
Corn 180 / 140
Cucumbers 350 / 300
Eggplant 120 / 80
Garlic 780 / 650
Grapes 200 / 160

Prince Hassan meets with cosmonaut and JAIC representative

AMMAN — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Wednesday received Soviet cosmonaut Viktor Savinykh who is currently participating in the Sixth World Congress on Aerospace Education in Amman. During the meeting, Prince Hassan praised Savinykh's contribution to space research and called for an exchange of cultural and scientific information between Jordan and the Soviet Union.

The Soviet cosmonaut, welcomed future Jordanian participation in scientific experiments in space alongside Soviet space scientists within the framework of a programme for technological and scientific cooperation between the two countries.

Also on Wednesday His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan received the president of the Japanese Agency for International Cooperation (JAIC) who is currently on a visit to Jordan to get a close idea about the development projects the JAIC finances in Jordan. During the meeting, Prince Hassan expressed Jordan's appreciation for Japan's support for development programmes in Jordan. The Japanese official, on his part, conveyed gratitude to His Majesty King Hussein and Prince Hassan for their role in bolstering Jordanian-Japanese relations. (Petra)

Governors, deputies get new positions

AMMAN (Petra) — Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Salem Masaadeh Wednesday announced a list of district governors and deputy governors who have been transferred to new positions as of Saturday, July 29, 1989.

According to the announcement, Khaled Murad will be deputy governor of Balqa, Talaat Nawaiseh will be deputy governor of Amman, Khalil Khreisat will be director of Nationality and

Alien Department at the Ministry of Interior, Abdul Qader Hababeh will become director general of the Finance Department at the Interior Ministry. Musleh Tarawneh will be district governor of Madaba, Salih Nassar will become district governor of Deir Alla in the Jordan Valley. Ghaleb Izmiqna will become assistant to the Balqa governor and Neal Al Azab will be district governor of Mazar Al Janoubi in the southern Jordan Valley region.

Innab leaves for Baghdad meeting

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Industry and Trade Ziyad Innab left for Baghdad Wednesday to take part in a meeting by ministers of industry and trade and economy in the four member Arab Cooperation Council (ACC).

The meeting which starts Thursday will examine means of promoting trade among the four countries — Jordan, Egypt, Iraq and North Yemen — lay the basis for solid coordination so that the ACC countries can assume a

stronger negotiating position with other nations in import/export operations and will review a number of joint industrial ventures, especially those that help ensure food and industrial security.

The meetings are expected to last three days. The industry and economic ministers meet one-day after the commencement of meetings in the Iraqi capital by the ACC ministers of finance, who are discussing economic cooperation among the ACC countries.

French string expert visits conservatory

By Hind Lara Mango, Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The National Music Conservatory was recently visited by French string expert, Jean Lenere. The aim of this visit was to assess the Conservatory's string section, and to offer advice where needed.

Lenere studied violin for eight years and piano for ten. He is presently Director of the Camprata Orchestra in Paris. In 1988 he wrote up a programme for violin teaching for the first four years of a student's training.

Accordingly, he set-up a ten year curriculum for the string section at the Jordan Conservatory.

"This visit is a result of an invitation which was conveyed to some members of the Conservatory, by the French government," says Hind Nasser, Committee Chairperson. "We were given a wide spectrum of French private and national music conservatories. At the time, it was suggested that Lenere come to Jordan and take a look at our programmes."

In an interview with the Jordan Times, Lenere said that negotia-

tions were under way for a "jumelage" between French conservatories and the National Music Conservatory. "Suggestions were made that involved the sending of French music experts to Jordan. They would tutor both teachers and students in this field," says he.

As a consequence of this eight-day visit, Lenere found that there is a lot of potential in our Jordanian music students. He added that everyone seemed to be working hard, and that there is a need for proper guidance. Parents or members of the family, he advised, should make it a point to accompany a child to his or her lesson. This way they will be able to help them at home while they practice. Lenere also found that there is a high percentage of older students that have the makings of professional performers. "With proper nurturing via scholarships inside and outside Jordan, we hope to encourage our talented students in the right direction," Nasser said. She further revealed the Conservatory's plan to host professionals from Japan and Bulgaria within the coming year.



Princess Wijdan tours national gallery

AMMAN — Her Royal Highness Princess Wijdan Ali, head of the Royal Society of Fine Arts, met at the Jordan National Gallery with a group of Jordanian women who live and work abroad. They reviewed various matters of interest to

Jordanian women in general and the work of art in particular. The Princess later toured various parts of the Jordan National Gallery and was briefed on the paintings on display (Petra photo)

Meeting discusses effects of weather on locust movement

AMMAN (J.T.) — Participants in a three-week training seminar on combating desert locusts Wednesday reviewed a working paper by Ali Abanda, director general of the Department of Meteorology, outlining the effects of climatic changes and weather on the movement of desert locusts.

The paper emphasised the importance of the department's work in relaying such movements and sounding the alarm about areas where locusts breed.

The participants, who started meetings here on July 16, visited the National Centre for Agricultural Research and Technology Transfer (NCARTT) where they discussed the Abanda paper along with a number of others that deal with means of fighting the pest. They watched documentary films on the types of locusts and locust breeding areas.

At the opening of the seminar, Agriculture Minister Adnan Badran urged the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) to establish a regional data bank in the Middle East linked to the Rome-based network, so as to monitor the movements of the desert locusts and give early warning to the countries of the region.

Delegates from various Middle Eastern states are taking part in the training seminar which was organised by FAO in cooperation with the Ministry of Agriculture.

The Rome-based FAO runs specialised commissions for controlling the desert locust in the Near East and North Africa. These commissions are entrusted with promoting research on control of the desert locust and carrying out all possible measures to control



Dr. Ali Abanda
plagues of the desert locust within the two regions.

ACC farm cooperative directors end four-day talks on integration

AMMAN (Petra) — The four directors of farm cooperatives in Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) countries concluded a four-day meeting in Amman Wednesday by issuing a set of recommendations designed to promote mutual assistance between the cooperatives.

A final statement said that subjects discussed at the meeting centred on the most effective ways in which to achieve integration and urged the member governments to involve farm cooperative representatives in drawing up policies related to agricultural production and marketing.

The participants stressed the importance of implementing joint cooperative ventures designed to develop pasture lands, produce improved seeds, and facilitate the exchange of produce among the four states.

The participants also called for stepped up research programmes to develop agricultural industries, the exchange of expertise, and visits by officials and members of

cooperatives. They also called for organising seminars and training courses to provide up-to-date information to cooperative members on farming and agricultural production.

The final statement announced the formation of a higher coordination committee to supervise cooperation among cooperative organisations in the ACC countries. It said that the proposals and recommendations will be referred to the ACC secretariat and the respective governments.

Seminar urges more control on quarries to ensure safety

AMMAN (Petra, J.T.) — A seminar on stone and sand quarries in Jordan ended here Wednesday with a set of recommendations which among others call on the government in Jordan to increase control over quarries in the country, to organise their operations to improve the quality of stone and ensure environmental safety.

A statement issued at the end of the three-day seminar, attended by engineers and representatives of construction companies, urged the concerned authorities to conduct research work and to prospect for raw material used in construction, as well as to appoint one engineer for every five quarries to maintain control over their operations.

The statement also called for updating specifications and standards related to concrete, stone and sand used in building taking into account the effects of natural forces, such as wind, rain and corrosion of stone.

One of the other recommendations called for organising a seminar on mining and mineral industries in Jordan and conducting further research work on all kinds of material used in the construction business.

The statement stressed the importance of increasing tree plantation and the use of treated water to irrigate large areas of land with forest trees, giving attention to the use of safety equipment to provide protection to workers involved in quarrying

stones and using methods that would reduce the amount of dust that pollutes the air around quarries.

The protection of the environment around the quarries was discussed at Wednesday's morning session before the conclusion of the meeting.

The three-day seminar was organised by the Jordan Engineers Association and attended by 100 engineers and specialists in the construction business in Jordan.

A total of 19 working papers were reviewed by the participants, dealing with proper measurement to be taken to exploit stone lime brick, rock and sand in the country's 240 quarries.

Pocket money for students with scholarships may be cancelled

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Ministry of Higher Education is contemplating the idea of cancelling all pocket money grants to students who win scholarships to study at Jordanian universities, according to a report in Al-Dustour Arabic daily newspaper.

The report said if the plan is to be implemented, students will receive tuition fees and the cost of books but not the JD 35 monthly payment that used to be provided to students with scholarships.

This move is taken, the report noted, to allow a greater number of scholarships for as many students as possible.

It said a scholarship will be

granted to students who came first in their classes at school, and the top ten students in the Tawjihi examination's various streams. The report added that two per cent of the total number of scholarships will go to students from the badia region of Jordan.

Normally students who get scholarships are bound to serve in government agencies, mainly educational institutions, for double the period they spent in learning at the university.

Minister of Higher Education Nassereddin Al Assad will hold a press conference in Amman Saturday to give details about prospects of increasing the num-

ber of students in the country's four universities, and could shed more light on the issue of scholarships.

The minister is also expected to divulge deliberations by the Council of Higher Education which convened Monday and had a full debate on higher education in the Kingdom.

Last year the four Jordanian universities admitted more than 7,300 undergraduate students and 1,835 post-graduate students in all fields of specialisations. But press reports here quoted informed ministry sources as saying that this number could be boosted to 10,000 students for the 1990 academic year.

Congress on aerospace education ends Paper notes importance of space exploration

AMMAN (J.T.) — Delegates from 19 countries Wednesday ended the sixth world congress on aerospace education sponsored by the World Aerospace Educational Organisation (WAEEO), and reelected Kamal Naguib as the organisation's chairman of the board of directors.

flying above Syrian airspace. Faris who flew over the Earth at an altitude of 400 kilometres said in a statement later that his experience was a remarkable contribution towards providing scientific knowledge to his country and the world at large.

He said that he shared the experiences of three Soviet cosmonauts in the "Mir" space station, taking photographs of the water and land surfaces of Syria and providing valuable information towards the exploitation of natural resources.

Faris said that cooperation between the United States and the Soviet Union in space programmes was unlimited and the coming stage will witness a joint study of the Mars planet.

Faris also noted that the two superpowers are also launching a project to clean outer space from 14,000 objects that could obstruct space programmes.

Faris commended Prince Hassan's address at the opening session, describing it as an open invitation to the international community to curtail pollution of space, and to reduce the manufacture of mass destruction weapons.

Sami Rabani from the Middle East Airline addressed the final session, held in Amman, stressing the importance of developing the individual who, he said, is the source of all progress in aviation and space exploration.

Among the highlights of the congress was the participation of veteran cosmonauts from Soviet Union — Alexy Elysev and Victor Savinykh — as well as U.S. astronaut David Walker, and Dr. Farouk Al Baz, director of the Centre for Remote Sensing at Boston University in the United States.

They all delivered speeches to the meeting which was organised in cooperation with Royal Jordanian (RJ).

In a keynote address at the opening session Monday, His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, stressed that man's experience in space had

revolutionised the understanding of the planet Earth and its natural resources, as well as space environments, and that this knowledge should be utilised for the welfare of mankind.

The Regent stressed the role of the Developing World in aerospace education for cultural development and referred to Arab participation in the space programme which was initiated by Prince Sultan Ibn Salman Al Saud of Saudi Arabia in 1985.

Prince Sultan was the first Arab astronaut who took part in the 18th mission of the space shuttle Discovery. The Regent said that Syrian Air Force Col. Mohammad Faris, who participated in the Soviet Soyuz programme was able to serve his country by researching and documenting information on Syrian forests, lakes, water, land and mineral resources while

Jabr: Jordan will soon complete national environment strategy

AMMAN (Petra, J.T.) — Jordan will soon complete work on a national environment strategy and will issue appropriate laws related to the strategy which will be put into force in 1990, minister of municipal and rural affairs and the environment announced here Wednesday.

Yousef Hamdan Al Jabr made the statement at a meeting of the Higher Steering Committee preparing for the national strategy which discussed various aspects of the plan and a proposed executive programme as worked out by eight specialised sub-committees.

The minister reviewed the plan's objectives and spoke in some detail about various aspects it entails, such as conducting assessment of the country's resources, future environmental trends and changes that can be introduced.

The Higher Steering Committee decided at its meeting to create two additional sub-committees, one to be known as the

Legal Committee and the other to be charged with spreading awareness among the public with regards to protection of the environment.

On July 19 the ministry announced that matters related to the projected national environment strategy will be discussed in detail at a general and expanded meeting to open at the Royal Cultural Centre in Amman on July 29.

Participants will be members of the eight specialised sub-committees who will discuss the broadlines of the strategy which is designed to provide protection to the environment in Jordan.

The sub-committees, picked up from the private and public sectors, represent departments and organisations concerned with agriculture and land, surface and underground water resources, beaches and coastline, population and housing, the atmosphere and air, energy and minerals, antiquities as well as cultural and archaeological sites.

According to Dr. Suifan Al Tal, director of the ministry's Environment Department, the strategy will be carried out in cooperation with the international union for the conservation of nature and natural resources.

NATIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

ROYAL DECREE: A Royal Decree was issued Wednesday endorsing the appointment of Dr. Mahmoud Al Samra as president of the University of Jordan as of July 10, 1989. Samra succeeded Abdul Salam Al Majali who has been appointed advisor to His Majesty King Hussein. (Petra)

UNIVERSITIES OPEN UNIFIED OFFICE: The four Jordanian universities — Yarmouk University, the University of Jordan, Mu'ta University and the Jordan University of Science and Technology — have decided to set up a unified office to coordinate the process of student admission, registration and distribution. According to a statement Wednesday Yarmouk University President Mohammad Hamdan will be head of the office, and will be assisted by the registrars of the four universities. (Petra)

MEETING DISCUSSES ELECTIONS: Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Salem Masaadeh chaired a meeting in Amman Wednesday to discuss matters related to the preparation of lists of voters for the coming parliamentary elections. Attending the meeting were provincial governors and heads of departments in charge of constituencies in the Amman areas. Ministry committees and departments in charge of the constituencies will start preparing the final version of voter lists on Aug. 15. (Petra)

STUDENTS CAN RECEIVE TRANSCRIPTS: The Ministry of Education Wednesday urged students who passed the Tawjihi examination in the 1988-1989 scholastic year to obtain their transcripts from their own schools. It said that transcripts which come in Arabic and English free of charge can be received from schools as of Saturday July 29. (Petra)

EDUCATION OFFICIALS VISIT MA'AN: Ministry of Education Secretary General Dr. Munther Al Masri and Ministry of Higher Education Secretary General Dr. Ahmad Bashayreh Wednesday met with the Education Department Director in Ma'an Governorate, Mohammad Khattab. The discussions dealt with the prospects of opening a community college in Ma'an following the increasing number of students who passed the Jordanian Tawjihi from Ma'an Governorate and the Jordanian government's policy to establish higher education institutes in various governorates of the Kingdom. (Petra)

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- A plastic arts exhibition by the Student Affairs Department's Painting Club of the Yarmouk University at the Housing Bank Art Gallery.
- An exhibition of photographs depicting various aspects of life in the Jordanian badia, at the Yarmouk University.

BAZAAR

- The annual bazaar of the Hai Nazal Social Development Centre which includes handicrafts such as embroidery, artificial flowers, dresses, knitwear, ornaments and children's toys.

THEATRE

- An Arabic play entitled "Thamanni Thali" (Price of a Shadow) at the Royal Cultural Centre — 8:00 p.m.

LECTURE

- A lecture by Central Bank of Jordan Governor Mohammad Said Al Nabaisi on the Jordanian economy at the Abdul Hamid Shoman Foundation — 6:30 p.m.

FILM

- A feature film entitled "E.T. — The Extra Terrestrial" at the American Centre — p.m.

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Weekly Political Pulse

Shamir's blunder and Peres's bewilderment

By Waleed Sadi

NOW that the Israeli government under Yitzhak Shamir has reaffirmed its self-proclaimed "peace initiative" by a 21-4 vote, Washington, the biggest pusher of the election dimension of the Israeli plan within Arab and non-Arab camps. Clearly, the U.S. took the Israeli bait when it accepted the assurances of Deputy Prime Minister Shimon Peres that the "constraints" imposed on the plan by the Likud's ultra-rightists, Sharon, Levy and Moda'i, "are dead for all intents and purposes."

A closer scrutiny of the recent political acrobatics in Tel Aviv, however, would reveal that something quite different from the U.S. interpretation of Sunday's Israeli government's reaffirmation of its May 14 plan has occurred. To begin with what swayed Peres in favour of accepting at face value the reaffirmation formula is quite contrary to his pious rendition of what actually transpired at the Sunday cabinet meeting. Let any one forget, the same Peres was the first to reject such wishy-washy reaffirmation formulas when a similar submission was made to the Israeli cabinet a fortnight ago. The Labour Party, including its leader, knows better than anybody else that the Shamir capitulation on July 5 to the conditions and stipulations of the Israeli trio, Sharon, Levy and Moda'i, is deeper and more profound than meets the eye. Yet, had Peres insisted on a more thorough repudiation of the July 5 constraints, the unity government in Israel would have

collapsed. And since Peres's canvassing of support for his position among the splinter Israeli parties has revealed that Labour has no real chance to form a coalition government on its own, the only thing left was to have new national elections in Israel. In such an event not only that Labour was projected to suffer an unprecedented defeat but also the leadership of Peres himself was in real danger of being successfully challenged by Yitzhak Rabin. Thus, Peres wanted to cut his losses first and those of his Labour Party second by appearing to have been converted once again to the proposition that all is well with the Shamir plan.

But what about the conditions imposed on the plan by Sharon, Levy and Moda'i? Are they really dead for all intents and purposes as claimed? Not by a long shot. The proof of their invincibility is readily available in the words of Shamir himself to Israel television Sunday when he confessed that the Likud decision to incorporate the five principal conditions of the trio pertained "only to the future!". In such words lie the Shamir bait and his gambit. For Shamir knows only too well that it is one thing to begin a peace programme and quite another to end it. In other words, there are hardly any risk from the Likud point of view in starting a process of an open-ended negotiations provided they reach a dead end when they are confronted with such stipulations as the ones attached to the plan by Sharon and his clique. Meanwhile, the intifada would be stopped and the final deter-

mination of the status of the occupied territories would remain in abeyance for as long as one can see.

Thus, the bottom line is that the respective views of the Palestinian and Israeli sides on the final shape and form of the settlement are diametrically opposed to one another. The gaps between the two sides are objective and formidable. No amount of semantics or acrobatics would succeed in bridging the gaps between them on fundamental and strategic issues.

It is often stated, especially in the West and among some Israeli circles, that once negotiations get started between the two sides, the momentum achieved would generate new perspectives and moods which in their cumulative effect can obliterate the dams that stand in the way of achieving a permanent and just peace in the Middle East. Such an optimistic view may or may not withstand the hard-core issues that still divide the two sides in the Middle East. In the final analysis, what determines the acceptance or rejection of such an euphoric scenario is the availability of other alternatives. And since the Palestinian side has no operational formula of their own yet to salvage the occupied territories, one can argue that the Palestinians have not much to lose by taking the election idea to task till the bitter or sweet end. For if the election scheme comes to naught as expected, Washington would no longer have any excuse to fight and object to the idea of convening an international peace conference on the Middle East.

Shallow foundation

SOME Jordanians are being bothered by the sight of long queues of young people applying for visas to travel to foreign lands. Such short-sighted people hold the artificial view that the sight of long queues of applicants for opportunities in foreign lands reflect badly on the Kingdom. The rationale behind their negative outlook and interpretation rests on the shallow foundation that the great number of Jordanians wanting to start their fortunes, whether educational or economic, elsewhere, signifies that all is not well in the country. In other words, the departing Jordanians are seen as casting a vote of no confidence in their own country.

In fact nothing more can be further from the truth. Given the fact that the country's economy is undergoing adjustments and that job and business opportunities are not abundant as they once were, and given the fact that the educational opportunities at the post-high school level are considerably less than needed to cope with the ever-increasing Jordanian student population, it is quite natural that so many Jordanians want to temporarily try their luck outside their own country. Accordingly, the real reasons behind the new wave of exodus lie in the fact that it offers many positive returns for the country when it cannot afford to handle all the educational and economic needs of all of its people. One dare say that the greater majority of such migrating people are projected to return with new skills and financial capabilities to build up their country. Given the social fabric of this country, our young women and men, who leave behind their homeland and loved ones, will always be gravitated back to their roots and country. Of course there will always be some who will opt not to return to their country, but fortunately their number is insignificant in comparison with the vast majority who will return. In any case, the right to leave one's country and to return to it is one of the most fundamental human rights.

As for the foreign embassies that process the many Jordanian applications to go abroad, they are always viewed with suspicion. In many ways they find themselves in a no-win situation. If they expedite the travel to their respective countries they stand to be accused of hurting the national interest by expediting the brain drain process. If they do not facilitate such travel, they are still accused of discriminating against Jordanians and of putting inhuman obstacles in their path.

On balance, foreign countries are helping Jordan cope with its needs at a time when it is most urgently needed. As long as our people return to their country, one should not panic at the sight of Jordanians seeking to explore their fortunes elsewhere for the time being.

JORDAN PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i Arabic daily Wednesday discussed Israel's current attempts to find substitutes to the PLO from among the Palestinian people living in the occupied Arab territories. The paper said that the Israelis hope to find a way through the Shamir elections plan and through contacts with the Palestinian people to escape from world-wide pressure on the Jewish state to hold an international conference on the Middle East question. But this time the Israeli manoeuvres and Washington's tacit approval of the Shamir plan as an alternative to the projected conference cannot in any way liquidate the problem, nor can they ignore the PLO as the sole and legitimate representative of the Palestinian people in any negotiations over the Palestinian land and people, said the paper. The paper said that the ongoing intifada in the occupied areas and Jordan's decision to sever links with the West Bank have both boosted the stand of the PLO and placed the world in general and the United States and Israel in particular face to face with the facts and realities in the Middle East. The United States is one of a number of nations that are encouraging the Israelis to pursue their present manoeuvres, and thus Israel is going ahead with the Shamir plan so as to impose a de facto solution on the Arabs, the paper added. It said that the Palestinians, backed by the world community and through their continued struggle are bound to foil all Israel's evil conspiracies.

A columnist in Al Ra'i daily strongly attacks Israel for refusing to deal with the PLO as the representative of the Palestinian people. Tareq Masarweh says that the Israelis are trying hard to find substitutes to the PLO and are providing empty promises to the PLO through their American ally that in the final analysis the Palestinians will receive semi-independence. The writer refers to reports about meetings between the PLO representatives and the Shamir government, and says that the PLO does not possess any thing on which to offer concessions because it did everything in its power to end the conflict and arrive at peace. He reminds his readers that all Israel's leaders and prime ministers had in the past refused to admit the presence of Palestinians, and had rejected the idea of giving the oppressed people any of their basic rights. He says that since the Zionist ideology has not changed, there can be no chance for any manoeuvres by the Israeli government and its American ally to succeed.

Sawt Al Shaab daily on Wednesday commended the on-going measures to bolster steps towards unity within the Arab World through the Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) which was set up last February. The paper referred in particular to the meeting starting Wednesday in Baghdad between the ACC ministers of finance to discuss further steps towards cementing economic, industrial and commercial links between the four countries in implementation of resolutions by their heads of state in Alexandria last month. The paper said that the four ministers' talks will centre on the basic principles on which integration can be achieved, and will pave the way for practical steps to be taken in this respect. There is no doubt that the ministers will be faced with numerous questions and difficult points in their endeavours, but there is great hope and full backing by the people and governments of Jordan, Iraq, Egypt and North Yemen which can ensure success.

By Israel Shehak

IT IS important when evaluating military affairs and their political consequences to avoid mythology. More myths envelop the Israeli army than perhaps any other, so a few words about the structure of that army, and its role in Israeli society, are in order.

Israel's army is a national army in the sense that the great majority of Jewish males and about half of the females serve compulsorily; males must do three years' service and continue to serve in the reserve until aged 55. Conscripts are selected after a comprehensive battery of both physical and intelligence tests. Only volunteers are accepted by the "elite" units, which include the paratroopers, and they too are subjected to a period of exacting tests; more are rejected than accepted. Service in such units carries enormous prestige in Israeli society. Both the strength and the weakness of the Israeli army lie in the unwritten, but very real, social obligation of Israel's upper classes to serve in its top units, with the added burden of the long reserve service which it implies. In each Israeli war the percentage of casualties from the upper classes has been higher than the national average.

The Israeli army can, for all intents and purpose, be divided into four parts. The elite units are characterised, in addition to physical qualities, by a higher level of education and a much higher social profile than the rest. Then comes the armoured and artillery units. Below these come the infantry units such as the notorious Givati and Golani brigades. Those whose intelligence and/or social profile is thought to be too low even for those units are compelled to serve in the Border Guards, if physically strong, or if not, are given jobs such as drivers; educated persons of poorer physique are assigned clerical and intelligence duties.

This division, which by and large corresponds to class divisions in society, also accords to some extent with behaviour towards the Palestinians in the territories. The "lowest" level units of the army, such as the Border Guards and Golani and Givati brigades, behave much worse than those higher up on the social and military scale. It should be emphasised, however, that contrary to the myths about the Israeli army, most soldiers serving in the territories are capable of carrying out the most atrocious and immoral orders if given by a competent authority and keeping silent about them afterwards.

The root of discontent

But the root of the increasing discontent in the same elite units of the Israeli army is quite different. There has been an erosion of military efficiency as a result of the intifada which is deplored by many in the elite units but enjoyed in the lower ranking ones. A detailed description of this process, which will affect, if known outside Israel, the whole political and strategic situation in the Middle East and maybe even the nature of the relations between the U.S. and Israel, follows.

The three main factors in the efficiency and the military performance of any army at war are discipline, communication along the chain of command and training. "Without those, an army, however well equipped, is no-

thing but an armed mob, good perhaps for acts of brutality and torture against an unarmed population, but otherwise worthless.

There are many recent examples to prove this. The intifada is rapidly forcing the lower echelons of the Israeli army into this situation. The first factor which went by the board was the annual training of the reserves and part of the training of conscripts. For a time, at the start of the intifada, some high officers asserted that the army could carry on its training while policing the Gaza Strip, but as the months passed this was seen to be impossible. In many cases annual reserve training of such units as the Armoured Corps has been reduced from 30-40 days to three, the rest of the time having to be devoted to suppressing the intifada.

The false reports

The Hebrew press has over many months cited examples of the open falsification of reports, with immunity for most of the officers concerned. In the summer of 1988 it was revealed that when a company commander had "raided", on his own initiative and against orders, a West Bank village which was quiet until then, the reaction of his brigadier was simply to fake the appropriate orders with a false date and tell his staff to say nothing. A few of them did report the case, not because they cared about the village, but because of their concern for military order and discipline, but nothing significant was done.

More recently (Hotam, 28 April), a paratrooper on return from service in Nablus, described how "a sector commander" (quite an important position) held an inquiry about a Palestinian who was killed (really murdered) against standing orders. The soldiers from the Armoured Corps ordered to attend the inquiry stayed away, with the obvious encouragement of their officers and sector commander. The sector commander refused to hear the paratroopers and their officers since he had decided in advance to submit a false report to his superiors. Such cases appear to be more a norm than an exception.

In fact, one of the main reasons

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for the continuous optimistic declarations of the Israeli army commanders is their ignorance of what is going on in their own army, an ignorance based on the prevalent falsification of reports. An important factor in the encouragement of such falsifications is that the sector commanders in the territories, being permanently stationed in the area of their command, fall under the influence of the settlers, especially since many of them live in settlements themselves. The officer who ordered the atrocity described by Yossi Sarid, Lieutenant Yehuda Meir, is one such.

The situation in the Golani and Givati brigades, and even more so the Border Guards, is very much worse than in the Armoured Corps, since in many instances orders given by officers to the soldiers are not being obeyed — to the satisfaction of the sector commander and his staff. Military discipline appears to have broken down completely in these units, which are now virtually useless for military purposes.

Serious disaffection

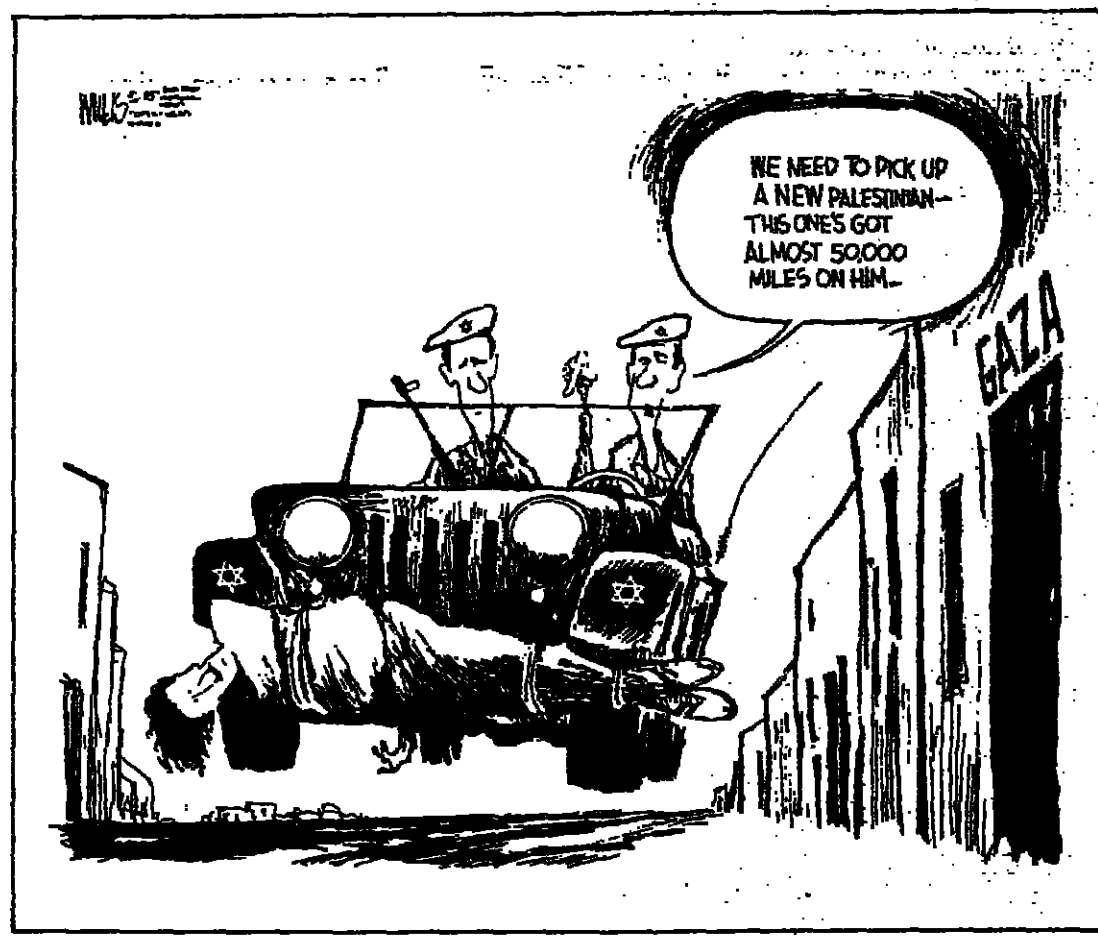
This development, which is being watched by both soldiers and officers of lower and medium ranks in the elite units, is the main reason for the protest movement which is developing inside the Israeli army. In addition to the small Yesh Gvul movement,

whose members refuse to serve in the territories and are being imprisoned for their stand, there exists a much bigger movement of thousands of soldiers and officers, who, since they are mostly from the elite units and the Israeli upper class, have considerable importance. Because of their social and military status the army prefers not to antagonise them when they refuse to serve in the territories and either does not call them up for reserve duty or invents jobs for them inside Israel. What, for example, is the Israeli army to do with a reserve officer in an elite unit who actually sat with the present chief-of-staff on their way to deal with the hijacking at Entebbe and who now refuses, together with a majority of his unit, to serve in the territories, (Hadashot, 17 March)? Put his on trial and give him more publicity? The easy way out, which is being increasingly followed, is not to call up whole elite units which are regarded as "disaffected", the same course is taken with many individuals in

other units. This means that the burden of such service falls even more heavily on the other elite units, and there are already examples of such units serving in the territories for over a hundred days a year. Their wives are organising demonstrations against the repetition of such a burden.

The elite units cannot be replaced, even for controlling the intifada, and certainly without them Israel could only fight a purely defensive war, and its usual strategy of rapid advance would have to be abandoned. There is a historical precedent, on a much smaller scale, from the last stage of the siege of Beirut in 1982. It is now clear that Sharon and his chief-of-staff, Rafael Eitan, intended to take Beirut by storm. But by this time the disaffection of the elite units and of some higher officers was much in evidence and they were afraid to mobilise a famous reserve elite brigade and other elite units for this task. When Sharon tried, on 31 July, to use the Golani brigade for this purpose, the result was a fiasco, with heavy casualties and no advance. Sharon then opted instead for fierce carpet bombing at the beginning of August, which finally aroused even President Reagan's anger. On a much larger scale, since the disaffection within the Israeli army is now much more serious, Shamir and Rabin are faced by the same choice; they can increase enormously the level of crude repression, losing more and more of the army's real military power in the process and increasing the protest of the military elite, and of the upper class — or they can seek peace.

All the signs point to the first alternative being adopted, not only by the politicians but by the army's top command as well. Nor should this surprise us: the army has not learned anything from its Lebanese debacle, not even in purely military affairs. The present military leadership of Israel is notoriously stupid. A current joke in Israel runs: "There is one general who is so stupid that even the other generals know that he is stupid". Against stupidity the gods themselves contend in vain. As in Lebanon, it will have to get worse before it gets better — Middle East International, London.



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SEPT / SEPT

Alors que le royaume venait de conclure, en France, un accord sur le rééchelonnement d'une partie de sa dette publique et garantie avec ses créanciers, regroupés au sein du Club de Paris, les ministres des Affaires étrangères du CONSEIL DE COOPERATION ARABE ont annoncé la semaine dernière à Amman la constitution d'une commission, chargée de coordonner la diplomatie des Quatre. Affichée dès la création du CCA en février, la volonté de la Jordanie, de l'Irak, de l'Egypte et du Yémen du Nord d'instituer entre eux une «complémentarité économique et dans les domaines de la sécurité, ainsi qu'une solidarité politique» prend donc forme peu à peu. Lancée lors du premier sommet des ministres des Affaires étrangères du CCA, le 15 juin à Alexandrie, la coopération diplomatique a fait l'objet de discussions pratiques dans la capitale jordanienne. Selon Marwan al-Kassem, le Conseil a notamment décidé de ne parler que d'une seule voie, désormais, dans toute réunion arabe ou autre. Unanimité qui doit prévaloir en particulier sur le problème de la guerre Iran-Irak, la crise au Liban et la question palestinienne.

En ISRAËL, ce sont les deux grands partis du gouvernement d'union nationale, le Likoud et les travaillistes, qui sont parvenus à un compromis dimanche. En conclusion, à une large majorité, un accord repoussant que «l'initiative de paix» est «toujours en vigueur», les ministres des deux formations se sont également prononcés contre la dissolution du cabinet. La crise politique repoussée, au moins à court terme. Tel Aviv s'est retrouvée presque aussitôt confrontée à l'offensive de l'OLP, dont le numéro un, Yasser Arafat, a affirmé ce week-end qu'une rencontre directe s'était produite entre «un membre du comité central de l'OLP et un membre du Likoud, mandaté par Shamir». Interrogé par le quotidien israélien «El Messager», Yasser Arafat ajoute par ailleurs qu'un autre contact «tout récent», a eu lieu «dans les territoires occupés» entre le premier ministre israélien en personne et des «responsables palestiniens». Démenties lundi par l'Etat hébreu, ces informations viennent contredire l'intransigence toujours répétée du chef du Likoud à l'encontre de tout dialogue avec la centrale palestinienne, qu'il refuse de considérer comme représentative des habitants de Cisjordanie et de Gaza. Elle place le premier ministre israélien dans une position déjà rendue inconfortable par la polémique engagée il y a une semaine par son ministre du Commerce et de l'Industrie, Ariel Sharon avait notamment «dénoncé» ses «contacts secrets avec des personnalités palestiniennes des territoires occupés». (D'après agences).

EN BREF

Tawjili. 63,97% des 40.355 élèves du secondaire, qui ont passé leur examen de fin d'études, ont décroché le diplôme. 18.000 étudiants inscrits ne se sont pas présentés aux épreuves. La section infirmerie (400 candidats) enregistre le meilleur taux de réussite avec 79,2%, tandis que le cursus commercial (4.581 candidats) est lanterne rouge avec seulement 54,5%. Les élèves recalés pourront repasser tout ou partie des épreuves l'année prochaine.

Parlement européen. L'Espagne a décroché mardi la présidence du Parlement européen de Strasbourg. Enrique Baron, 45 ans, a été élu avec 301 des 475 voix, dès le premier tour, permettant à l'Espagne d'accéder au perchoir pour la première fois depuis son entrée dans la communauté européenne, en 1986. Enrique Baron, ancien ministre des Transports et du Tourisme de Felipe Gonzalez, a bénéficié de l'accord entre socialistes et démocrates-chrétiens, les deux principales formations du Parlement.

Jeunesse. 500 jeunes, venus de 80 pays des cinq continents, ont adopté dimanche à Strasbourg une «Déclaration universelle de la Jeunesse», présentée comme une proposition de mise à jour de la Déclaration des droits de l'Homme, adoptée le 26 août 1789 pendant la Révolution française. Ce document consacre une large place aux «droits nouveaux», notamment pour les handicapés et les minorités, mais aussi pour les femmes et les enfants. Les auteurs de cette proposition s'étaient réunis à l'initiative de l'Association pour la Déclaration du 26 août 1989, AD89, et souhaitent voir figurer de nouveaux droits dans une Déclaration des droits de l'Homme du troisième millénaire.

Pétrole. La France a importé deux fois plus de pétrole saoudien au cours des cinq premiers mois de l'année. Les importations en provenance de l'Arabie Saoudite ont augmenté de 59% pour atteindre 5,47 millions de tonnes, alors que les achats globaux de pétrole brut sont en baisse de 2,4% dans l'Hexagone par rapport au début de l'année dernière.

Hitler et Staline. L'Union Soviétique a reconnu, dimanche, officiellement et pour la première fois, l'existence d'un pacte secret sur le partage de l'Europe entre Hitler et Staline, lors d'une émission de la deuxième chaîne ouest-allemande, qui sera diffusée début août en URSS. Valentin Falin, chef du département des Affaires internationales du Comité Central et ancien ambassadeur à Bonn, a notamment déclaré au cours de l'émission: «sur l'existence d'un protocole additionnel secret, il n'y a aucun doute». Cette reconnaissance intervient alors que les Etats baltes réclament actuellement son annulation.

Tour de France. L'Américain Greg Lemond, déjà vainqueur en 1986, a remporté dimanche, pour la deuxième fois de sa carrière, le tour de France cycliste, après son succès dans la 21ème étape, un contre-la-montre de 24 km entre Versailles et Paris. Greg Lemond, 28 ans, a finalement devancé le précédent maillot jaune, le Français Laurent Fignon, de 8 secondes seulement, soit le plus petit écart de l'histoire du tour. Côté tour de France féminin, la victoire est revenue à la française Jeannie Longo.

Londres a soif. Un demi-million d'habitants de la partie sud-est de Londres sont privés d'eau depuis plus d'une semaine et pourraient le rester pendant encore plusieurs jours. La pénurie est due à un été exceptionnellement chaud et sec, après un hiver faible en précipitations. La consommation d'eau a augmenté de 70% au cours des derniers jours. Les services des eaux ont organisé une distribution par camion-citernes et les Londoniens doivent même parfois faire bouillir l'eau avant de la boire.

Trafic de tapis. Un lot de 744 tapis précieux iraniens destinés à être exportés illégalement du port iranien de Bouchehr, dans le sud-ouest du pays, a été saisi par les autorités et deux personnes ont été arrêtées. Les tapis, dont 352 de pure soie, truffés de pierres précieuses et évalués à plusieurs milliards de rials (un dollar vaut 73,45 rials), avaient été placés dans une citerne pour être embarqués. Le ministre de l'Information, chargé depuis plus d'un mois de la lutte contre le trafic de tapis persans, a indiqué que cette quantité est la plus importante jamais saisie en Iran depuis la Révolution de 1979.

Brigitte Bardot. La célèbre actrice française, Brigitte Bardot, qui se consacre depuis plusieurs années à la défense des animaux, est accusée d'avoir fait castrer un âne sans l'accord de son propriétaire. Jean-Pierre Manivet, un industriel français voisin de l'actrice à Saint-Tropez, avait confié son âne Charly à Brigitte Bardot, en mai dernier, pendant son absence. Selon sa version, il a découvert à son retour que Charly avait été castré, apparemment parce qu'il courrait avec insistance Mimosa, l'ânesse de B.B.

Enchère record. Une Mercedes-Benz 500K spécial roadster de 1935 a été adjugée 19.758 millions de francs (soit 3 millions de dollars), a été adjugée à la vente aux enchères de voitures de collection dimanche soir, à la vente aux enchères de voitures de collection organisée à Monaco par Sotheby. Un prix jamais atteint pour un objet vendu par la salle des ventes londonienne à Monaco. Cette voiture, qui avait été jugée la plus belle du monde lorsqu'elle fit son apparition à l'exposition internationale de voitures de Berlin en 1935, a été acquise par un marchand parisien. Elle avait été estimée à 15 millions de francs (2,3 millions de dollars) par les experts.

Mona Saoudi, sculptrice

Les artistes, responsables de la culture

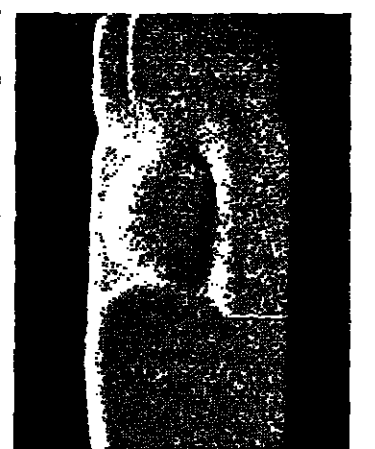
Les Jordaniens n'allaient pas à l'art, l'art doit aller à la rencontre des Jordaniens. Voilà presque la «devise» de Mona Saoudi.

Une devise que la sculptrice, installée à Amman après des études à Paris et un long séjour au Liban, a bien des difficultés à mettre en application.

Sa sculpture pour l'Institut du monde arabe, ses expositions dans le Golfe, aux Etats-Unis ou en Asie, l'ont rendue plus célèbre à l'étranger que dans le royaume.

Une sculpture plantée au beau milieu d'un cul de sac en forme de rond-point indique le chemin. C'est là, au fond d'une petite impasse, proche du deuxième cercle de Djebel Amman, que vit et travaille Mona Saoudi. Une maison noyée dans la verdure, un jardin encombré de poteries, de blocs de pierre qui mènent à l'atelier, où plusieurs œuvres attendent encore l'ultime coup de ciseau ou le polissage...

En entrant dans la villa, le visiteur se retrouve dans une pièce couverte de dessins et de photographies de sculptures. Un peu plus loin, s'ouvre un salon baigné de lumière, où sont exposées une vingtaine de sculptures abstraites, fusiformes ou ovoïdes pour la plupart, taillées dans presque autant de pierres différentes, rouges, noires, vertes...



«La Mère et l'Enfant», 1979.

Parmi elles figure un calcaire, aux formes ramassées, aux lignes douces et galbées, intitulée «Mère-Terre», réalisée en 1965. «C'est un bloc que j'ai trouvé à Paris et que j'ai sculpté alors que j'étais à l'école des Beaux-Arts», se souvient-elle. L'œuvre porte déjà la marque de l'artiste, son goût pour les études épurées, longiformes, dédiées à une thématique presque exclusivement consacrée à la naissance, à la fertilité, à la croissance. «J'avais une vingtaine d'années quand j'ai créée, se souvient Mona Saoudi, j'avais la sculpture dans la peau depuis l'âge de 4 ou 5 ans.»

Secrètement

Née à Amman en 1945, elle se passionne en effet dès sa prime enfance pour les statues qu'elle découvre dans la cité antique. «Nous habitions à côté des thermes et du théâtre romains. Nous vivions entourés par des sculptures. Je me rappelle avoir joué pendant des heures et des jours dans l'amphithéâtre, au point d'être décédée dès le début des années 50, à devenir artiste et si possible sculptrice».

Il lui faudra cependant attendre encore une bonne décennie avant de pouvoir prendre ses premières leçons de dessin. «A l'époque, il n'y avait rien. Je lisais les journaux et je collectionnais les rares articles consacrés à l'art. Un jour, j'ai appris le retour en



Mona Saoudi et l'une des œuvres qu'elle souhaitait réaliser pour Amman (à droite): marbre blanc pour l'IMA (au centre), et «Croissance», marbre, 1983.

Jordanie du peintre Mohana Durra. C'était en 1959 ou 1960. Il annonçait qu'il allait donner des cours à Amman». Secrètement, Mona se mit à quitter la maison familiale pour apprendre le dessin. «Mon père, qui était croyant, n'aurait jamais admis que sa fille se prenne d'envie pour une profession artistique», souligne-t-elle.

Son avenir, pourtant, est en train de se sceller. Dès lors, Mona Saoudi se met en tête de faire des études à Paris. «C'était la capitale de l'art», affirme-t-elle. Reste à élaborer un plan d'action. «J'ai décidé de finir mes études secondaires à Beyrouth, où j'ai présenté, par la même occasion, ma première exposition de dessins en 1963». Son désir d'embrasser la carrière artistique se renforce encore durant cette période, au cours de la laquelle elle rencontre des sculpteurs libanais, dont Michel Basbousse.

Son baccalauréat en poche, Mona prend son billet pour la France. Elle a 18 ans. Plutôt que l'avion, elle choisit de prendre la voie des mers. «Pour éprouver la concrétisation de mon rêve, avoue-t-elle. Je ne parlais pas un mot de français, et je n'avais que l'adresse d'un peintre libanais à Paris». Sa passion l'emportera sur les obstacles linguistique et culturel.

Février 1964: elle découvre «la capitale des arts», la pluie et le froid. «Pendant deux semaines, j'ai marché dans la ville. Pour

sentir l'atmosphère, les gens, avant d'entrer en auditeur libre aux Beaux-Arts». L'année suivante, Mona Saoudi passe avec succès le concours d'entrée. «J'ai écrit une longue lettre à mon père pour lui expliquer mon choix de vie. Il l'a acceptée, me demandant simplement de revenir plus tard en Jordanie».

Mona restera en France jusqu'en 1968. Les événements du mois de mai, après la guerre israélo-arabe de 1967, joueront un rôle déterminant dans l'orientation qu'elle donne alors à son œuvre. «Je suis rentrée à Amman avec une conscience politique, confie-t-elle, avec l'idée de mettre l'art au service de tous».

Une conscience qui la pousse à travailler, dès son retour, dans le camp de réfugiés palestiniens de Baqa, au nord de la capitale. Et plus précisément, avec les enfants. Un an plus tard, après l'avortement de son projet de création d'un centre artistique pour les jeunes, elle préfère retourner au Liban, où elle restera jusqu'en 1983.

Une affaire publique

Dès son retour, Mona Saoudi cherche à promouvoir la sculpture monumentale. «J'ai sollicité les autorités afin de créer des œuvres pour la ville. Parce que je crois que l'art est une affaire publique, une occasion de réfléchir». Convaincue, elle propose



«services» à la Petra Bank, qui se montre réceptive à son projet. Ainsi est née «Croissance», une sculpture que la municipalité installe au centre du sixième cercle en 1983.

Mona est satisfaite. «J'ai créé ce que je voulais, sans contrainte, et l'emplacement était merveilleux». L'artiste déchantera rapidement. En 1987, la transformation du carrefour et l'installation de feux de circulation transporteront son œuvre près du troisième cercle, sur la route du moukhabarat. «Ça n'avait plus aucun sens, se plaint-elle. Ma sculpture s'est retrouvée sur le bas-côté, perdue dans les poteaux électriques, montée sur un socle trop haut. Dans un pays qui respecte l'art, j'aurais engagé un procès», précise-t-elle.

Ses déboires ne font alors que commencer. Malgré deux autres commandes de la Petra Bank, installées devant le siège de l'établissement bancaire à Wadi Sagra, et la réalisation du «Cyclo des sept jours», pour l'université du Yarmouk en 1985, elle se retrouve en conflit avec la ville d'Amman, qui lui demande «des cafetières pour toute sculpture». Ce qu'elle refuse au non de «la liberté de création». Quant à la vente de ses œuvres en Jordanie, rien n'y fait. «Je n'ai travaillé qu'une seule fois pour l'épouse de Zeid Ben Chaker, poursuit-elle. C'était en 1983. La même année, j'ai fait ma première et dernière exposition à Amman. Je n'ai rien

Isolée dans son travail, elle estime être suffisamment «solide pour tenir malgré tout en Jordanie». Depuis 4 ans, la sculptrice jordanienne a aménagé son repaire à Djebel Amman, après avoir quitté Djebel Weibdeh, où elle s'était établie en 1983. «Mon premier atelier était trop exigu. J'ai gagné un peu d'espace, mais ici je ne peux pas travailler en toute liberté. Les voisins se plaignent du bruit», précise-t-elle.

Poussée par le besoin de trouver enfin l'endroit «idéal», Mona Saoudi a entrepris de construire sa propre maison, à la périphérie du vieux village d'Abdoun. Plus encore, elle censure l'idée d'y créer une véritable «cité des artistes». «J'espère pouvoir installer là-bas des mois d'octobre prochain. Dans un premier temps, j'y aurai ma maison, mon atelier et une petite salle d'expositions temporaires, ouverte aux artistes arabes. A terme, j'aimerais construire d'autres ateliers, puis un vrai musée permanent».

Initiative entièrement privée, son projet bénéficie du soutien de quelques amis écrivains, peintres et sculpteurs des autres pays arabes. «Ils m'ont donné chacun une ou plusieurs œuvres que je vends pour financer la réalisation de ce complexe artistique».

Fidèle à ses convictions, Mona Saoudi rêve même d'une coopération avec les artisans d'Abdoun. «La sculpture a besoin d'espace», conclut-elle.

Alain Renon.

Planètes

L'étoile du Bicentenaire

Parmi les très nombreuses manifestations qui entourent le bicentenaire de la Révolution Française la plus étonnante est sans doute celle organisée à partir de la découverte d'une «Etoile du Bicentenaire», Gamma Boo, dont le rayonnement vient de toucher notre planète et a mis, précisément, deux siècles à nous parvenir, ces 200 ans qui nous séparent de 1789.

Depuis toujours l'homme entretient une relation privilégiée avec la voûte céleste: l'étoile polaire qui guidait autrefois les voyageurs à travers les déserts ou les océans, l'étoile des Rois Mages, et jusqu'à ce «village de Magellan» auquel les hommes ont donné le nom du premier des grands navigateurs, celui qui en-

trepris pour la première fois le tour du monde. Aujourd'hui, on vient de détecter et de photographier pour la première fois dans la Constellation du Bouvier, non loin de la Grande Ourse, une étoile très brillante, identifiable à l'œil nu et située à 200 années-lumière de la Terre.

C'est une invitation à voyager dans le temps. Ainsi, si nous pouvions nous transporter instantanément sur un astre dont la lumière met 3.000 ans pour nous parvenir et en admettant évidemment qu'on puisse voir la surface de la Terre, on découvrirait les civilisations de cette époque, en Egypte, en Inde, en Chine. S'il s'agissait d'une planète plus proche, une planète dont la lumière met mille ans, par exemple, pour atteindre la Terre, on

pourrait voir les débuts de l'histoire moderne en Europe, au Proche-Orient. Avec Gamma Boo c'est l'histoire toute récente qu'on découvrirait: 200 ans à peine! L'époque de la Révolution Française...

Est-ce à dire que cette étoile est à côté? Elle est quand même à 1.892.200 milliards de kilomètres de la Terre (la vitesse de la lumière étant de 300.000 km par seconde). Par rapport à elle, le soleil paraît tout proche: sa lumière met huit minutes à nous parvenir. S'il s'éteignait on ne le saurait que 8 minutes plus tard.

Quant à la Lune, on peut la toucher du doigt: elle est à une seconde-lumière de la Terre. Au delà du système solaire c'est Alpha du Centaure qui est l'étoile

la plus proche de la Terre (4 années-lumière). L'étoile Polaire est 400 fois plus éloignée: 465 années-lumière. Quant aux limites de l'univers observable, elles sont situées aujourd'hui à 3 milliards d'années-lumière. A raison de 300.000 km par seconde, c'est une distance qui décourage l'imagination.

Précisions sur cette étoile du Bicentenaire: elle a une magnitude de 3,03. Elle est âgée de 2 milliards d'années, et de couleur blanche. Sa taille est de 1.390.000 km de diamètre, soit deux fois plus que le soleil. Sa température est de 8.000°C (au lieu de 500°C pour le soleil). Elle est composée principalement d'hydrogène et d'hélium.

Patrick Olivier.

20 étudiants du CCF à Paris

Marathon touristique



La Tour Eiffel, le Louvre, l'Institut du monde arabe, la Cité des sciences de la Villette, Notre-Dame, le musée d'Orsay, les Tuileries, Versailles... En deux semaines à peine, du 27 juin au 8 juillet, dix-huit étudiants et deux étudiants du Centre culturel français ont sillonné Paris, en long et en large. Touristes marathoniens auxquels le CCF avait proposé ce premier voyage en France. «Et pour pas cher, remarque l'un d'eux, puisqu'on n'a payé que 420 dinars par personne, billets d'avion, hébergement et demi pension compris». Logés à l'Ecole Centrale de Chateaufort, dans la proche banlieue, ils et elles ont vagabondé dans les rues de la capitale, avec une prédilection pour les Champs-Élysées et le quartier des Halles. Si les jardins du château de Versailles ont fait l'unanimité, les avis ont été très partagés sur le centre Pompidou et ses «immenses cheminées». Quant aux contacts avec les Parisiens... «Les gens ne sont pas très sympathiques, estiment-ils. Ils sont toujours pressés et rarement souriants. Même quand nous chantions dans le métro ou dans la rue». Exception: la Butte Montmartre. «C'était émouvant, se souvient une étudiante. Là-haut, ce sont les gens qui font le lieu, pas l'inverse».

THE THREE HORSES RES.

THE THREE HORSES RESTAURANT est heureux de vous annoncer qu'il propose désormais un Couscous Royal dans sa carte du dimanche, à partir du 30 juillet, pour 3,5 dinars (verre de vin compris). Un nouveau plat traditionnel, qui s'ajoute à sa spécialité: la Fondue Bourguignonne.

THE THREE HORSES, 6e cercle, au face de l'hôtel Saint-Roch. Réservations au 825892.

Mots croisés

par Florence Montell

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J
1										
2										
3										
4										
5										
6										
7										
8										
9										
10										

Horizontalement.

1: représentations. 2: indignés. 3: le français; qui a un gros ventre. 4: élève. 5: forme d'avoine; adjectif possessif; précis. 6: sacrifices. 7: négation; a vu le jour; pronom personnel. 8: longue période; épreuves. 9: les secours des parents; enlevé. 10: spécialité; évaluer.

Verticalement.

A: rapide et imprévu. B: forme de pouvoir; fers des vers; exister; préposition. D: Salade; pronom. E: équerre; cochenilles. F: dévidoir pour tirer la soie des cocons; poin cardinal. G: périodes. H: pas rapides; inséparable de Jerry. I: sur les épaules. J: isolés; éroder.

(Solution en bas de page)

A L'AFFICHE

CINEMA

E.T., de Steven Spielberg, avec Dec Wallace, Henry Thomas, Peter Coyote, Robert Macnaughton et Drew Barrymore. Les deux bambins découvrent un extraterrestre (sympa), en font leur ami et l'aident à regagner sa planète contre l'avis du gouvernement, des scientifiques et du pentagone réunis.

Centre américain, jeudi 27 et dimanche 30 juillet à 19h00 (en anglais).

Ciné-club.

Suite et fin, jusqu'au 31 juillet, du mois des festivals européens du cinéma. Séances respectivement à 13h00, 15h00, 17h00, 19h00 et 21h00.

Jeudi 27: Mona Lisa; Treasure of Sierra Madre; La Bannière d'Alger; Atlantic City. Vendredi 28: A fish called Wanda; Les Liaisons dangereuses (version américaine); children of Lesser God; Killing Fells; The kiss of the spider woman. Samedi 29: Yô; Gandhi; Streets of fire; Milagro, Bean field; The shout. Dimanche 30: Warriors; Fitzgibbon; The

last emperor; Sky people; Days of Heaven. Lundi 31: Zorba le Grec; Taxi driver; Places in the heart; Le Nom de la rose; John and Mary. Mardi 1er août: Camelote; Bent your wagon; Greece; Saturday night fever; Fanny. Mercredi 2: Chorus line; West side story; Fond of music; Warriors; Amedeus. Films en version originale. Tél: 603901. Route de l'université, à droite après l'hôtel Jérusalem puis première à gauche, 300 m.

TELEVISION

Un échec de Maigret, dans le cadre des enquêtes du célèbre personnage de Georges Simenon, réalisée par Gilles Katz, avec Jean Richard, François Cadet et Catherine Rouvel. Un grand patron d'une chaîne de boucheries demande à être protégé par la police après avoir reçu plusieurs lettres anonymes de menaces. Il est assassiné à son domicile. En menant l'enquête, Maigret découvre que l'industriel était détesté par tout son entourage et se retrouve face à une multitude d'écroulées de suspects...

JTV, vendredi 28 juillet à 17h30.

Solution des mots croisés

Horizontalement.

1: spectacles. 2: outrés. 3: Ré; pansu. 4: dressant. 5: ai; sa; nets. 6: immolées. 7: ne; ne; tu. 8: ére; vestes. 9: tantes; ôté. 10: es; estimer.

Verticalement.

A: soudaineté. B: pu; rimera. C: étre; en. D: cresson; te. E: té; saletés. F: aspect; est. G: années. H: lentes; Tom le tête. J: seuls; user.

Retournez le questionnaire à: Alain Renon, Jordan Times, French section, University Road, P.O. Box 6716, Amman.

الأمم المتحدة

Palestinians — crucifixion resurrection and indestructible spirits

By Sana Atiyeh
Special to the Jordan Times

From Beirut to Jerusalem
By Dr. Swee Chai Ang
Grafton Books, 1989

"BODIES piled on top of each other — mutilated bodies, with arms chopped off, bloated decaying bodies that had obviously died a day or two before. Bodies whose limbs were still tied to bits of wires, and bodies which bore marks of having been beaten up before their murder. Bodies of children — little girls and boys — and women and old men. Some bodies lay in blood that was still red, others in pools of brownish black fluid. Bodies of women with clothes removed, but too mutilated to tell whether they are sexually assaulted or just tortured to death ... I started to cry ... besides being shot dead, people were tortured before being killed. They were beaten brutally, electric wires were tied round limbs, eyes were dug out, women were raped, often more than once, children were dynamited alive. Looking at all the broken bodies, I began to think that those who had died quickly were the lucky ones."

This is a testimony about the Sabra and Shatila massacre of 1982 documented in Dr. Swee Chai Ang's book From Beirut to Jerusalem, which will be released soon in local bookstores. In her memoirs Ang, an orthopaedic surgeon from Singapore living in Britain, who works with the British charity organisation, Medical Aid for Palestinians (MAP), depicts her experiences with Palestinians in the refugee camps of Beirut in a very straight-forward, honest and human manner.

Because she is a surgeon Ang is able to depict her experiences with suffering

Palestinians in a credible and sincere way, and does not "romanticise" the Palestinian struggle as most writers — including non-fiction writers — tend to do when writing about this issue. When reading Ang's book one gets the feeling that she is addressing the reader personally, hoping there might be some understanding as to what is happening to Palestinian refugees in Lebanon.

Book review

When Ang began her work with Palestinians in 1982, she had the notion that Palestinians were "terrorists", although she knew that some were ordinary people who needed medical attention. It wasn't long before she learned otherwise, it took only a few days of being with Palestinians in Shatila refugee camp. A few weeks after she arrived, she became a witness to the horrible sights of the massacre. The experience left a mark on the doctor that would enable her to continue and escalate her devotion to helping Palestinians inside the camps and making their plight known to the world.

Israeli responsibility

Ang offers several factors and testimonies proving that the Israelis were responsible for the massacre. She says that it did not matter who actually pulled the trigger, but who directed and organised the operation.

She writes: "It was meaningless to say that they (Israelis) had nothing to do with the massacres, because the killings happened precisely as the Israelis invaded West Beirut with the declared intention of flushing out Palestinian 'terrorists' ... it was not obvious that the individuals who had walked into the camps to slaughter their defenceless

people were Israelis. So what? They took orders from the Israelis. They were fed on Israeli food, and they read Israeli newspapers. They were mercenaries of the Israelis. The camps were illuminated at night by Israeli flares shot into the sky above them, so that the murderers could get on with their crimes."

The doctor criticises the Western press for the way they dealt with the massacre in particular and the Palestinian plight in general. She recalls that she sent her husband, Francis, a descriptive letter about the situation of Palestinian refugees soon after the massacre, and pleaded for help, yet received no response. Her husband managed to print the letter in the New Statesman in London, but "the British press was not interested in printing the letter as it had 'no news value.' Neither my foreign-sounding name, nor the suffering of the survivors in the camps, a mere two weeks after the Sabra and Shatila massacre, were of any news value," she writes.

Ang also notes that when she was in Jerusalem testifying before the Kahan Commission, which investigated the Sabra and Shatila massacre, she told the press about the hardships that refugees were facing, but she was quoted only on something she thought was less important than the message she was trying to deliver. She was quoted as saying that while she and the rest of the medical team were trying to save a handful of lives for 72 hours non-stop at the Gaza hospital in Shatila, there were those outside being slaughtered by the thousands. "If only I knew, I would have run into the streets and done something to try to stop it." The message Ang wished to get across to the press was that there was still a lot that can be done for the survivors of the massacre, since their living conditions were unbearable. This was ignored by the press.



Orphans after the Sabra and Shatila massacre, in front of the wall where their parents were murdered

In another event, Ang recalls when she and a nurse, Jill, who had also helped in the camps, were in New York giving a press conference on the first anniversary of the Sabra and Shatila massacre to talk about the massacre and Palestinian hardships. The two were accused by some unsympathetic journalists as waiving their time with stories of no news value. Although here Ang tries to be more pleasant about the press, she still does not relay this feeling about the

Western press when she writes: "but, overall, it was a good press conference, and most of the African and Asian papers carried stories on the anniversary of the massacre."

Palestinian resiliency

One theme that keeps arising in Ang's book is the Palestinian ability to endure hardships, to construct after destruction and to rebuild their lives after they have been

shattered. She notes that after the Ramadan camps war on refugees in 1985 by Shi'ite Amal militias, the Gaza hospital was almost totally destroyed.

"Doctors, never mind, said my Palestinian friend. 'We will prepare this hospital again. We will wash the walls, bring in medicines and open this hospital again.' I knew from the tone of his voice that he meant every word he said. I had also heard these words and seen them put into action at least twice before, in August 1982 after the siege of Beirut, and in September 1982 after the massacres. I often wondered where these people got their strength from."

Palestinian optimism after destruction seems to emerge after every siege they survived in Lebanon, according to the author. Ang describes Shatila after the Ramadan siege as being festive, people singing, dancing and waving Palestinian flags and photos of the martyrs. Ang felt deep sadness because there was nothing around her except ruin and rubble, "...and so many had died, but yet today's memorial was not a memorial of sorrow, but one of hope and triumph ... then I realised that only a vision of victory could remove the pain of death, destruction and separation."

After working with Palestinians, Ang could only conclude that these people who live in exile must return to their homeland in Palestine. Since 1948, Palestinians have been oppressed and humiliated wherever they ended up. Ang describes the shelters where they stayed after the long siege by Amal militia that lasted for years as being very humiliating and the ultimate insult to any human life. (Ang's colleague, Pauline Cutting wrote "Children of the Siege" about the camps war where Dr. Cutting was working under the most difficult circumstances where not only medical necessities were rare,

but where food and water hardly existed).

"They had converted tents to houses, they had turned camps into exile townships. Now their towns were destroyed, their identity was crushed, and they were forced to squat in these shelters," the doctor writes.

The excuse by Israel is that there is no room for Palestinians to live in Palestine is not accepted by Ang who grew up in Singapore, where the population equals that of Israel but where the area is much smaller. She also notes that there is Shatila camp of 200 square yards and houses tens of thousands of Palestinians. "If you want the room, you'll make it. So it's not a question of room, but one of an ideology of intolerance," she says.

Ang, who continues to give selflessly, was awarded the Star of Palestine by PLO chairman Yasser Arafat for her dedicated work with Palestinians. She was a founder of MAP, a charity medical organisation which relies heavily on volunteers who had to treat anyone regardless of race, religion or colour. As she puts it in the book, there was already enough sectarianism in Lebanon, without foreign health workers making the divisions worse.

When MAP was established in London, Ang was happy about the way the British gave generously to help. She notes that after campaigning for the Palestinian suffering in the camps, money started to pour into MAP, especially from the poor, elderly and unemployed gave the most they could, because they felt that there were those who needed more attention than they did.

From Beirut to Jerusalem

Several months into the Palestinian uprising in occupied Palestine, Ang was the only orthopaedic surgeon who

worked at a hospital in Gaza trying to heal broken bones of children and youth inflicted by Israeli soldiers. When the uprising erupted in December 1987, Palestinians in Shatila told her that MAP must give priority to the uprising, and wanted all aid to go to the occupied territories, even at the expense of Shatila, where the Amal siege had still not been lifted after three years and where there was extreme suffering.

She is currently campaigning to raise money for MAP in order to stand by those under occupation or those living in exile. She will return to Gaza or the West Bank soon if the Israeli authorities permit her to do so. Ang is outspoken and makes sure she delivers the truth about the hardships facing Palestinians everywhere, something that displeases the Israelis.

Ang's full-time support and work for Palestinians should be an example for everyone who believes in justice and basic human rights. In her book, which was distributed in parts of Europe and the U.S. (and the money from the book goes solely to MAP) she says she learned about justice from the Palestinians of Shatila, which completely collapsed in June 1988. It was those people who inspired her to struggle for a better world.

She writes: "The fall of Shatila was a blow to us all. But that would not stifle the yearning and demand for a Palestinian homeland. In 1982, I had witnessed the crucifixion of Palestinians in Beirut. From 1983 to 1988, I had witnessed their resurrection. I had seen their indestructible spirit in defending their dignity in the besieged camps in Lebanon. Today, they have carried their struggle for their existence back to their ancestral homeland ... Shatila lives in the hearts of everyone of us. One day, we will rebuild it on the soil of the Palestinian homeland."

Old Cairo revisited — with Hussein Kamal

By Katia Sabet

CAIRO — It's three o'clock in the afternoon, and the road that leads up to the Pyramids is a jungle of cars, buses, cabs and trucks, churning up swirls of dust in the blinding sunlight. Overworked policemen are trying to get the bottle-necked traffic moving again, while hundreds of boisterous children, clad in school uniforms, pour out screaming and shouting onto the sidewalk.

By contrast, the El Ahram studio — one of the oldest and most attractive to have been built in the heyday of the Egyptian cinema — is set in a quiet empty street, beneath a canopy of tall trees.

It is here that Hussein Kamal is shooting the final scenes of his movie, "Borgouan's Alleyway," starring Nabila Ebeid and Youssef Chaaban. The studio, its doors flung wide open, seems all but deserted in the sleepy afternoon sunshine. Nabila Ebeid is still in her dressing room, being made up for the final shoot of the film, which has just been released in Egypt and in several other Arab countries.

For her role in this movie she has been made up to look like a gypsy, with a deeply tanned skin, her huge eyes darkly underlined with kohl. Her bright red painted lips are pursed in a sulky pout. "I'm tired," she complains. "I'm not getting enough sleep."

She pulls down her low-cut neckline to reveal an expanse of skin, the same tanned colour as her face.

"Put a bit of powder on here," she says to the make-up artist. Then she stands up, smooths her dress down over her hips and knots of brightly coloured scarf over her rich mane of hair. The top of her dress has been ripped, revealing a bare shoulder. The skirt is torn and frayed.

"In this film I play the role of a poor woman who works in a dye factory, one of those small old-fashioned places where they still dye skeins of wool in huge boiling vats," she explained. "I'm alone in the world; there are a lot of men after me, and I let myself be taken in by their compliments and honeyed phrases."

"It's a big change from the kind of role I usually play, especially one of my latest films, 'Murder of a Schoolmistress' (Echthal Mudareessa). But in both cases, fate seems to conspire against my happiness," she added.

Nabila drapes a tartan shawl around her shoulders and steps out of the dressing room, making her way across the deserted studio's rambling gardens and its courtyards decorated with ornate fountains.

The set where this last scene will be shot is right at the end, near the wall which borders the extensive grounds. Here the sounds of the city can be heard, giving the scene a greater air of

realism. Up against a peeling wall some skeins of wool are being dried on bamboo poles. A coachman is sleeping inside his cab and his well-fed horse is dozing. A small group of technicians is standing round Hussein Kamal's wheelchair — he tore the ligaments of an ankle when he fell from the scaffolding of one of the sets during filming — and quietly listening to the instructions being handed out by the director.

"I want a dancer," he says. "A second-rate dancer. One of those overweight old women, the kind you only ever call when you are hard up for cash. Whatever you do, don't bring me a tart who's going to put on too many airs. She's not going to be part of the film. I just want to use her to fill a hole in the stage-set."

The others nod their heads, taking down notes. "Madame Nabila will make her entrance over there, carrying a tray with glasses of cordial," continues Kamal. "It's she who is going to attract all the cats and applause. It is she who is going to dance and breathe some life into the wedding feast."

For the scene about to be shot is indeed a wedding banquet, and the filming is due to begin. Nabila Ebeid is sitting slightly to one side, dressed in her dyer's outfit, all ripped and torn. She looks very tired. "I haven't had enough sleep; I desperately need to get some rest," she says, putting up a small dark-skinned hand as she

yawns politely. She is already steeped in the character of her role, tormented by destiny. It is her fourth film with Hussein Kamal and the first time she has played a woman from the working classes.

A photographer, a young man who looks new to the game, steps up to her. "A picture, Madame. Just one picture," he begs. "I've already told you that I don't want anyone taking pictures of me. Do you want to see me a spread all over the magazines with a low neckline like this," she retorts.

In fact, only a puritan would consider the neckline shocking. Nabila plays her role with total self-assuredness, completely convincing as the type of woman whose innate eroticism stirs up trouble whenever there are men around.

In this film, Nabila is playing the part of Zeinat, who has been robbed of all her money and abandoned by her drunkard husband. She proves easy prey for one of the workers at the dye factory and even for the factory owner himself. Pregnant, she gets married off to a starving student, in order to save face. She falls madly in love with him, but he in turn is completely obsessed by a girl he has met at university; and the complicated tangle of relationships is only just beginning.

The film is based on the book, "The Daughters of Borgouan" ("Fatar el Borgouan") by Ismail

Walaeddine.

"Yes, the Borgouan Alleyway... I love the alleyways of old Cairo," says Hussein Kamal. "I love the old parts of the city. Take this man Borgouan, for example. He was an extremely rich officer in the royal household during the sixteenth century. He bought up a whole section of Cairo. The only thing that remains of him today is a plaque at the corner of a street, but what a rich pattern of history, traditions and memories he represents."

"The alleyways of the old quarter of Cairo is a microcosm, where the ancient customs and mores which greatly influence the character of our people even today are still very much alive," he continued. "In these streets, always swarming with people, solitude and indifference — the two scourges of modern-day society — simply don't exist. The links between people are as varied as they are intense: good and evil still have a human dimension. In these old quarters I can find subjects for my films which are a million miles away from the stereotypes of twentieth century society."

"In the scenes I am shooting there is — how can I explain it — a certain smell, just as each alleyway in old Cairo has its own particular smell — incense, cumin, sweat, filth, meat being grilled in the open air... By using images and colours I try to give

an idea of these smells, this richness of detail... the cracks in the old walls, the puddles of water between the uneven paving stones. It's an entire landscape, a human landscape. It's almost as though it were something that had been breathed out by the men and women who are the characters in my films. There were are. That's what the Borgouan Alleyway means for me."

"My last films were very different from all that," he went on. "It's been 15 years since I made a film about the working class areas. The last film I made along those lines was 'We Won't Plant the Brambles' ('Ehna la n'ezra el Choc'), based on the novel by Youssef el Sebai. That's going back a long way!"

Today Kamal says he regrets straying from this kind of setting for so long. "My best films, our best novels came out of the alleyways of Old Cairo," he said. "The Nobel Prize for Literature honoured our bard of the popular quarters, Naguib Mahfouz; that was in a sense a type of recognition of the very spirit of our people, of our real roots."

For Nabila Ebeid too, the film "Borgouan's Alleyway" is a revelation because for the first time in her career she plays a "beet el hara" — literally, a street-girl, though in colloquial Arabic the term is an affectionate one used to describe young girls who come from the same quarter.

"She has already portrayed



Hussein Kamal

some interesting characters in 'El azza' ua el Char el Abiad' (The Virgin and the White Hair) and 'Atini haza el Dawa' (Give Me the Cure) but this new character Zeinat should be a surprise for her public," said Kamal, speaking of Nabila's role in his latest film.

"As for me, I'm going back to the old quarters; I want to explore them; I've half a mind to go and live there to get to know them better," he said. "I'm going to tell you a story. The other day, a friend of mine said to me: 'I've just bought a friend for 3000 (Egyptian) pounds (\$1,200).' I looked at him, horrified. 'Yes,' he continued. 'I've bought a computer. I talk to it. It talks to me, it gives me advice...' That's what we have been reduced to. We sit ourselves down in front of a screen, we watch; we don't speak, we don't even argue any

more. Even love is superficial, tainted with selfishness and distrust-of-the-mill considerations. We've turned into machines; pieces of metal and cement like the houses we live in, buildings without a soul. The alleyway is still untouched by this leprosy; its poverty protects it. That's why I love it. That's why I'm making this film."

A group of children have climbed over the studio wall and are watching carefully, trying to spot a famous face. But Nabila Ebeid has gone back to rest in her dressing room. Hussein Kamal has once more gathered his staff around him. The scene, which was to have been shot this afternoon will instead be shot this evening. For a wedding feast, it will be more fitting if it's filmed after dark. There is nothing to do but wait for sunset. It shouldn't be long now. — World News Link.

Catering to the very 'reech'

By Colin McDowell

"I AM Bijan," the immaculate little man said, leaping into the room with all the confidence and dazzle of the good fairy in a pantomime. His flamboyance made my "how do you do" greeting seem hopelessly fuddy-duddy and staid. He gave me a curious, sidelong look as we sat down. I gave him much the same — or, rather, I gave it to his tie. Bright yellow and signed no less than three times with the extravagant Bijan flourish, it pulsed meretriciously against his perfectly-cut black chalk-stripe suit.

Have you ever noticed how all the captains of power and politics look exactly the same when they appear on the television news, whether they are American, Japanese, Chilean or Turkish? Encased in suits so correct and solid-looking, wearing ties so expertly knotted, they look almost superhumanly perfect. The chances are that the clothes came from Bijan.

His proud boast is that the 1,500 most powerful men in the world come to him for their image. "Every month I am called by a couple of presidents and majesties." (Bijan's grasp of the subtleties of the English language fades as his excitement swells.) "Matter of fact, I visited a majesty just a month ago. The relationship I have with these guys is very good because they are very reech and I am very reech and I understand them." He gives me that sidelong look again. "You would not understand that because you are not as reech as us. I am successful with powerful men all over the world because — I apologise to mention that again — but I am reech also." Point taken.

Bijan was born in Persia in 1940 and he was reech even in his cradle. His father was an industrialist and could afford to send his reech little boy to Europe to be educated. That is where Bijan learned about style — in Italy particularly. He started working in men's clothes there 25 years

ago. It is 16 years since he opened his establishment in Los Angeles to provide "something so chic, so elegant, so perfection for men, like couture for the ladies." This was followed in 1983 by the opening of the store of stores in New York.

"You never been in my showroom? That's very pity. However ... I am full of apologies at my inadequacy. We continue talking. Suddenly: 'I am not so 'appy that you don't see with your own eyes my place. It took four or five million dollars to decorate each room. I gotta keep it all simple but so that when David Rockefeller or Sinatra walks in they have to say: 'Wow, Bijan! What you do?' He smiles coyly. You know what I just put on the floor? Real leather wall-to-wall carpet. Saddle leather the best."

I venture to suggest that much of his success is due to his gimmicks. A caliph-flash of disapproval. "Gimmick? I do not call that gimmick; you call it gimmick. I call it the exciting sort

of thing. Listen, I design for men who don't need nothing. I have to excite them. So I do crazy stuff, sometimes, just to be controversial. I done a Colt gun — simple but nice, you know, in gold and individually signed 'Bijan'. They go to the top 50 people." He looks me up and down doubtfully. "I don't know how well you know them ... anyways, you know them. You don't know how well it feels when you get a call from Mrs. Reagan."

"Gimmick?" he comes back to the sore point. "Listen, you want gimmick, I tell you. I did a line of clothes for Mr. Reagan recently to wear at his ranch when he's relaxing and having fun. I did him some jeans, real chic. Fifteen dollar jeans lined with mink so that he could be more comfortable. You should heard the outcry! 'Bijan jeans cost \$18,000.' That sort of thing makes me real sad and angry. So I called up Mr. Reagan to talk about this nonsense publicity. But the beauty is, I always get the support from



Bijan: "I done it so that people like you can make yourself excited in that way."

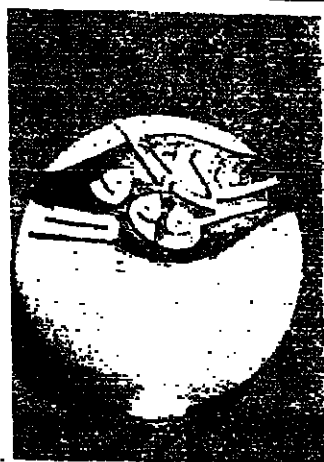
him. He told me: 'Bijan, don't worry. We are happy with what you done for us.' That's a good feeling."

Bijan clearly gives those 15,000 top men a good feeling. They spend real money with him. At his prices, it is not so difficult to do. He claims that his average customer spends about half a million dollar each year on clothes — jewellery comes extra. When you realise that one outfit can easily cost \$8,000, it is not difficult to see why. His jewellery can push the bill up very dramatically. Watches at \$125,000 are not especially out of the way.

He maintains that his customers are the "most powerful, most difficult, most reechest men in the world." He dresses 152 different nationalities and his list includes 16 presidents, six kings and most of the world's leaders of industry. The very grandest form an inner core of 500 very privileged men who are looked after by Bijan personally. He is even

courteous enough to travel to them if, as frequently happens, diplomatic problems make it impossible for them to visit there in New York. As he says: "You know them all."

The rewards have been high. Bijan has homes in Florence, New York and Bel Air. He travels in his private jet, and he collects cars and paintings. Although he could never sell his hands with ready-to-wear, he has produced a delectable little bomb for us. Bijan perfume is a crown to the masses. "It is my ready-to-wear," he told me. "I done it so that people like you can make yourself excited in that way." Bijan would hate to be thought sexist, so he has also produced a fragrance range for women. Both are available only at Harrods until the end of July and after that, in selected outlets. It's probably the nearest we'll be to even getting a sniff of what it feels like to be rich and powerful. — The Guardian.



Focus on People

Art and appreciation

By Marian M. Shabin

This week Mahmoud Taha talks to Focus on People about the art of ceramics in Jordan.

JORDAN, as other countries in the area that were at one point considered part of historic Greater Syria, has a tradition of artistic creation in areas such as works of mosaic, carpentry and copper works. Fine arts, however, are relatively new in the area, according to one of Jordan's better known ceramicists, Mahmoud Taha.

Taha believes that "painting and ceramics were looked upon as a past time for the frivolous. Arabs in general did not look at Europe for an example because throughout the Middle Ages European arts were glorifying religious subjects."

It was only at the beginning of this century that some students of art began going to Europe to study the how fine arts had evolved there, Taha says. Mahmoud Muhtar, the famous Egyptian sculptor, went to Europe between the two world wars, and he encouraged others to go as well. At that time about 30 to 40 students of art went to Europe to study. They were mostly from Egypt, Syria, Lebanon and Iraq. When they returned to their respective countries they opened the first fine arts schools in this part of the world.

Many of those early graduates taught Taha at the Baghdad Academy of Fine Arts from which he graduated in 1968.

Taha insists that 40 or 50 years is a short time in the history of fine arts and that "we still have so much to learn. I, 20 years after receiving my degree, am still learning about my craft." He insists that the artists in Jordan and other Arab countries are still "technologically behind."

The fine arts — whether painting, sculpturing or ceramics — are new forms of art in Jordan. It is doubtful that only the non-availability of certain raw materials and equipment are hindering quicker advances in this area of art. Taha talked about some other obstacles.

He says: "There are many factors that are hindering quicker advancements in the arts in Jordan. One is definitely the social acceptability of the artist. When a young man or a young woman tell their families that they want to study art, most parents express strong opposition. Both for social and economic reasons the study of art is not considered feasible by the vast majority of Jordanians. Jordanian and Palestinian families have stressed education for the past 40 years; they have also taught their children that financial success and self-sufficiency should be the outcome of their education."

Taha points out that "very often for the first four to six years an artist makes only debts and no money. Consequently, very few parents encourage their children to study art. Even those who could afford to support themselves for that period of time, usually don't. The rich buy art; they rarely create it."

In Jordan it is "the educated middle class that tends to be the greatest art appreciator. While some buy pieces of art because they really understand and appreciate them others feel they must have what the neighbours have. It becomes a status symbol to buy from a given artist," Taha says.

While those who appreciate art do encourage more and better production of art works, "ultimately only the artist can really encourage better art," according to Taha. He believes that the creation of more art schools is a necessity. "The earlier in life that a person or child is exposed to art the better; they can appreciate a lot more later on."

Taha, who has taught fine arts to primary schoolchildren since 1968, insists that his childhood had a lot to do with his creativity. "I used to make my own toys. There was no television and no radio. We had to entertain ourselves. It was certainly a very creative childhood."

For over 20 years Taha has worked in his crowded and colourful workshop in Jabel Luweibdeh, creating exotic ceramic murals, vases and sculptures. Only recently he stopped teaching fine arts at Jordanian private schools for lack of time. He teaches his hobby — Arab calligraphy — in the few spare hours he has and charges no fee. "It is my contribution to education of the next generation," he says.

A respite for Palestinian children

By Philippa Neave

PARIS — They filed into the lounge at Roissy airport, stood in a neat group and, clapping their hands in unison, began to sing "Biladi, Biladi" — "My country, my country" — the Palestinian national anthem. Newly arrived from the occupied territories, these thirty Palestinian children were singing their thanks to the men, women and children waiting there to welcome them.

The youngsters, all aged between 10 and 12, are in France to spend a month's vacation. Each of them will be hosted for a few days with French families, all of them with children of a similar age, before heading off together for a three week stay at summer camp.

Their stay has been made possible by funding from local authorities in the Paris region — all the host families come from this area. The France-Palestine Association, the organisation responsible for arranging the trip, has raised donations to cover additional costs of the month-long visit.

As the Palestinian children sit quietly in the airport lounge, accepting the soft drinks and cakes offered them by their new French playmates, their faces betray signs of excitement mixed with apprehension. Not many of them knew each other before setting off on their adventure. Not one of them has ever had the chance to experience a normal happy childhood.

Some of these youngsters come from Bethlehem, others from Jerusalem, Nabulus and refugee camps in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. All of them were born and raised under a military occupation and for the past 19 months they have witnessed — and often taken part in — the daily unrest and violence of the "intifada," the Palestinian uprising in the occupied territories. For all of them, this will be their first glimpse of a country where people live together in peace and security.

Thanks to the France-Palestine Association, other children have already had the same short taste of freedom before them. The project was started back in 1982, just after the Israeli invasion of Lebanon. The aim of the scheme is to give children a break from the tragedies of war, say organisers. "There have been some years when it hasn't worked," said

Francis Blanchet, the association's president. "Last year, for example, the Israelis wouldn't let the children out because of the 'intifada.'" This year, the authorities in Jerusalem allowed the children to leave, issuing each of them with an Israeli travel pass.

Under normal circumstances the project involves two groups of children, one from the occupied territories and another from Palestinian refugee camps in Lebanon. This year, thirty children from Nahr El Bared and from Beddawi, two camps in the Tripoli area of northern Lebanon, will also be spending a month's vacation in France. They are travelling separately from the other group, and are scheduled to arrive a few days later.

The children of the French host families are called upon to play an active role in making the young Palestinian visitors feel at home.

Said 11-year-old Steve Nocera: "I'm not worried about not understanding each other. We can communicate with gestures. We want to teach them our games, and they can teach us theirs." Steve, a lively fair-haired boy lives in Evry, a new town outside Paris. "I know about what is going on there," he said, referring to the occupied territories. "I've seen it on the news. I know that five hundred people have been killed in Palestine since the beginning of the 'intifada.'" The boy's disconcerting awareness has been encouraged by his father, 44-year-old Ello Nocera, who is a local authority official and one of the organisers of the France-Palestine project.

"This is the third year that Evry has taken part in the scheme," said Mr. Nocera. "It has had an enormous impact on the community. This time I had people calling me at eleven o'clock at night offering to take care of a Palestinian child. 'It's amazing to see how quickly the children mix and make friends. It creates a new sense of energy in the community while they are here,'" he added.

To the visiting Palestinian children, words like "school" and "holiday" no longer have any real meaning. Since the beginning of the "intifada," the Israeli authorities have shut down all Palestinian educational systems, from the universities right down to the kindergartens. In the West Bank alone, more than 300,000 school-aged children and some 18,000



university students have been affected. In all cases, two full years of education have been lost.

Attempts by Palestinian educators to organise alternative classes at home have been banned, as have self-study packs, put together by teachers. Classes at home have been declared illegal gatherings by the Israeli authorities. Said 11-year-old Rami, who comes from a Jerusalem suburb: "My older brother (15-years-old) works in my father's shop, but after the shop closes he comes and teaches me at home from books. But he was arrested two months ago with my cousin. They said he had been throwing stones. We don't know where he is."

If and when the schools reopen, there will be serious difficulties to be overcome. In the first grade, there will be two or three times as many children as normal hoping to enroll, since those who were due to start school two years ago have yet to do so. Meanwhile, much of what had been learned by the younger children will have been forgotten. Many eight and nine-year-olds will have to learn to read all over again, say teachers.

The ban on education has given rise to other social problems. Shafika Taha, 29, who has helped out as an accompanying adult to groups of Palestinian children for

that past three years, said that the 19-month-old uprising, combined with the lack of any schooling had taken its toll on many of the children in the group. "They are more difficult to control. They are disciplined but it is difficult to give them orders," she said. "They are not used to taking orders any more. They do not react like children; they reason in a logical way. One has to discuss everything with them before they will accept an order."

Palestinian-born Taha, who is currently studying at Lille University in northern France, says she has noticed a big difference in the attitude of these children, who experience the "intifada" every day of their lives, and other Palestinian youngsters she accompanied on a similar trip three years ago. "It is quite astonishing to see how responsible they are — too responsible in fact," she said. "They have grown up faster than their years: they are far too adult in relation to their age. When you listen to them speaking about politics you would think it was an adult talking."

While many of the children sit quietly in the airport lounge others — mostly boys — are demonstrative almost to the point of defiance, climbing up on chairs and jostling for attention. Several

young boys pose eagerly for the cameras with their "keffiyeh" head-dresses draped round their necks, holding two fingers up in the triumphant "V" salute.

By contrast, 12-year-old Marwa from Jerusalem is serious and withdrawn. She answers the questions put to her with disarming realism. Her life changed a great deal since the beginning of the "intifada." "What do you think?" she replies, staring her questioner straight in the eye. "We see people dying in front of our eyes every day." More than 500 people have been killed in the occupied territories and in Gaza since the "intifada" began. Thirty per cent of the victims have been school-aged children.

The "intifada" has also brought social disruption and economic hardship. "The shops are only open from 9 a.m. till 12, there is no school, everything has changed. Life is difficult. My father has no work any more and my mother cries every day," said Marwa.

Hundreds of children are reported to be detained in Israeli prisons. Said Taha: "One 10-year-old boy in the group I am responsible for has been in prison three times. First he was interned for three months, the second time for three weeks and the third time for several weeks. He is quiet.

has a withdrawn, sad look on his face. He has told me what went on those prisons — no wonder he's sad."

At the same time, said Taha, the children are proud and self-confident. "They don't want to be called the children of the 'intifada,' but the heroes of the 'intifada,' because they know they play such an important part in it," she said. When asked, a group of boys freely admitted to throwing stones. "We're not scared," said one of them.

Although one month is very little time, both the Palestinian and the French organisers believe there is much to be gained on both sides from the children's visit to France. Christine Decaster, deputy mayor of Argenteuil, one of the towns involved in the scheme, hosted a welcome party for the Palestinian youngsters. "What happens between the children teaches us a great deal. A sort of spontaneous solidarity emerges and our kids learn about the situation of the Palestinian children and feel more involved and concerned," she said. "It builds up an awareness in the community of the Palestinian problem. For the Palestinian children it is a time of fun away from the violence and shooting. For the first time in their lives they know what peace is."

Parting at the end of the holiday is often a difficult time, says Deputy Mayor Decaster, whose town has taken part in this and a similar plan to welcome children from the western Sahara for the past three years. "The children build friendships and bonds. The organisers grow to love them and many keep up a correspondence. Those who leave take home photographs and postcards and teach the other children back home what it is like here," she said.

There are some, however, who fear that this year may be less successful than previous ones. According to Shafika Taha, who has been with the children for a few days, the youngsters seem to have lost the capacity to have fun. "They cannot value things. In their minds, what is going on here is not an answer to what is going on back home," she said. "Today we took them to a fun-fair. All children enjoy roundabouts, but these kids seemed to take no pleasure in it. It is very difficult to know how to make them happy" — World News Link.



Javier Perez de Cuellar

The French Revolution and its major achievement, the Declaration of the Rights of Man, whose Bicentenary is now being celebrated all over the world, concern us all, from Tokyo to Ottawa and including Buenos Aires, Reykjavik, Moscow, Singapore and Conakry.

Eminent personalities on a world scale in their field, be it political, economic, religious, cultural or sportive, agreed to speak about them in "L'Actualité en France."

According to you, what are the most outstanding events of the French Revolution: the Declaration of the Rights of Man, the death of the king and the fall of the monarchy, the abolition of privileges, the advent of the Republic, the Constitution which was the application of the philosophy of Enlightenment, or the guillotine? Why?

Out of all the facts quoted, there are two which, to me, appear in themselves to sum up the Revolution in its dual aspect of liberation and tyranny. The first is, of course, the Declaration of the Rights of Man which inaugurates it and which remains, throughout, its inspiration and its

ideal. The abolition of privileges and the advent of a constitutional and democratic regime follow from it. The second is the guillotine whose invention had answered a concern for humane treatment and for equality in torture, but which, paradoxically, all over France, became the instrument of the revolutionary criminal courts and the symbol of the reign of terror. The contrast is great between the brilliant proclamation of the liberty and equality of all men and the violence into which the Revolution finally sank. "No liberty for the enemies of Liberty," Robespierre had declared, before being himself sent to the "national razor." No liberty without tolerance, the Revolution

teaches us.

Who is the most interesting personality of the Revolution, for you?

All those involved in the French Revolution are interesting or even fascinating, by their simple participation in such out-of-the-ordinary events, their powerlessness in controlling their course and the tragic end to which their blindness very often led them. If you want a name, I will give you that of Count Mirabeau, "the only one who was great," said Michelet.

Would you have actively participated in the French Revolution or would you have fought against it?

The concern I have always had for social justice would certainly have led me to enthusiastically join in the great impulse which marked the beginning of the Revolution. Then I would have been alarmed and disgusted by the turn the events were taking and I would have stopped taking part in them. Who knows if I would not myself have ended up on the scaffold?

In your opinion, was the French Revolution a necessary stage? Did it change the face of the world?

When an event has taken place, it is tempting to consider it as inevitable. On the matter of the Revolution, I do not at all contest the theories which explain it either by the development in forms of production or by the passion for equality. I believe that the abolition of privileges, which nothing justified any longer, was necessary and salutary. But, was it, for all that, necessary for the fall of the Ancient Regime to take the form it did? And all the more so as the excesses which were committed and the reaction which followed prevented the Re-

'No liberty without tolerance'

This is the second interview reprinted by the Jordan Times

Javier Perez de Cuellar
Secretary General of the United Nations

Perez de Cuellar, born in Lima on Jan. 19, 1920, has devoted his life to diplomacy. Ambassador and then Peruvian Minister of Foreign Affairs (1961-1963), he continued his career within the United Nations. After holding important posts in the United Nations, he has, since 1982, been its Secretary General. His moral authority and great competence have largely contributed to what numerous observers have qualified, over the last few months, as a real renewal in the U.N.

volution from transforming French society in depth. The huge impact it had in the world came rather from the ideal it expressed and propagated than from the way in which it carried out this ideal in actions.

Among the other Revolutions which took place in the world, which, according to you, was the most important?

I am more interested in the links which may exist between the three great American, French and Soviet revolutions of ideas than in their possible hierarchy. The first two were inspired by the philosophy of Enlightenment which had spread throughout Europe in the 18th century, and the example of the second one did not fail to influence the mil-

itants of the last one. What strikes me is that the French Revolution contains the seeds of the two models of society which were later to oppose each other and share the world and which, today, appear to be drawing closer together.

What does the Declaration of the Rights of Man represent for you?

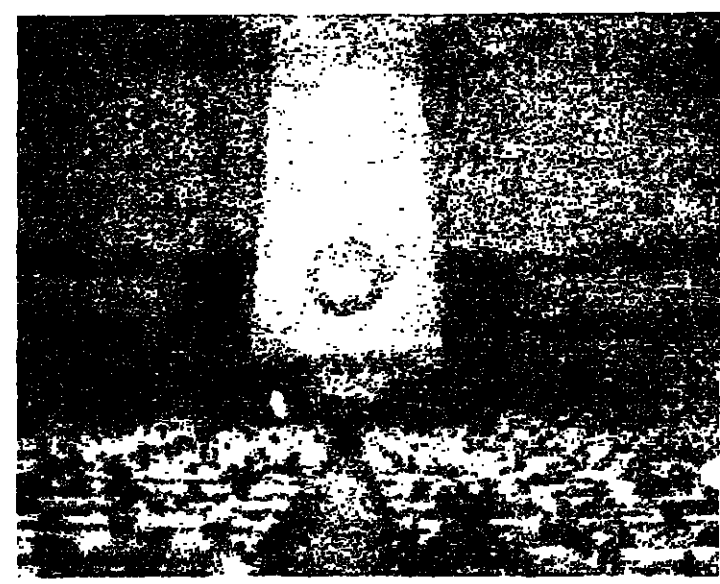
The Declaration of 1789 is the first declaration of rights which is really meant for all men of all times. It is no doubt marked by the preoccupations of the period but its scope reaches beyond the intentions of its authors. All the declarations which followed it and extended it are inspired by it, in particular the Universal Declaration of Human Rights proclaimed in Paris by the United Nations some 160 years later. And the crowd of people who live and die in defending its principles keeps on growing.

Which is the most important human right, in your opinion?

One cannot establish a hierarchy between the different human rights which make up an indivisible whole. Although they are difficult to reconcile, they are all equally important and should all be respected as they aim at establishing true social justice which concerns not only the distribution of riches but also access to spiritual wealth.

Do the principles of the Declaration of the Rights of Man inspire your actions? In what ways?

They inspire my actions all the more so as I do not have a purely political view of my position and they inspire them doubly: directly, in the steps I take to defend the oppressed, and indirectly, in all my action for peace and for the progress of the world.



A view of the U.N. General Assembly

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Show times: 6:15, 8:30, 11:00 p.m.
Performances: 3:30, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30 p.m.

Cinema **ALJOUH** Tel: 675571

EMPIRE OF THE SUN
Performances: 3:30, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30 p.m.

Cinema **PLAZA** Tel: 677420

ABOUT LAST NIGHT
Performances: 3:30, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30 p.m.



ANC, SWAPO demand tougher OAU action

ADDIS ABABA (Agency) — Liberation movements Wednesday demanded tougher action against South Africa as the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) ended a three-day summit.

Oliver Tambo, head of the African National Congress (ANC), called for a final onslaught on the Pretoria government, making use of what he called a favourable shift in the balance of forces.

Political analysts said Tambo wanted the OAU, founded in 1963 to champion Africa's liberation from colonial rule, to channel more military and financial aid to the ANC for it to intensify its struggle.

Addressing a news conference Tambo called for tougher international sanctions against South Africa, saying Pretoria had shown no sign of abandoning its

apartheid racial segregation policies.

He rejected proposals unveiled earlier this year by South Africa's new ruling National Party chief F.W. de Klerk, the likely successor to President P.W. Botha, to overhaul apartheid and give the country's voteless black majority a say in government.

"The armed struggle must be intensified if only to demonstrate that any election that excludes the majority is a non-starter," he said, referring to Pretoria's general elections in September.

Joe Slovo, a white member of the national executive of the Lusaka-based ANC, told Reuters in Maputo the ANC was not opposed to peaceful negotiations to end apartheid racial segregation.

But the South African government had not yet proved it was

serious about introducing black majority rule and had not honoured its promises in the past.

An apparent softening of the South African government's position has led to increasing pressure by Western nations for the ANC to suspend its guerrilla war and talk to the government.

"We've heard it all before... we've learned from all this... that we must beware Pretoria when it comes bearing gifts," Slovo said.

"The danger is that the outside world could relieve the pressure which is the only factor which will push them (the South African government) to the negotiating table with a realistic agenda."

"Real talking is dependent on the maintenance of pressure which for the external world means sanctions," Slovo said.

For the ANC, it meant continuing its campaign of political

pressure backed by military operations.

Slovo, who is also general secretary of the South African Communist party, is in Maputo for the fifth congress of the ruling Frelimo Party.

Sam Nujoma, leader of the South West Africa People's Organisation (SWAPO), told a news conference the OAU would ask the United Nations Security Council to intervene to halt Pretoria's alleged interference in Namibia's independence elections.

Nujoma described the situation in Namibia as critical and explosive chiefly because of intimidation and killing of voters by Pretoria's counter-insurgency unit Koevoet.

South African officials in Namibia were also registering South African citizens as voters in

the Nov. 6 poll and deliberately slowing down the registration of voters, he alleged.

"The apartheid regime is trying to rig the elections. How can free and fair elections take place at gunpoint?" he asked.

South Africa, disputed ruler of Namibia for the past 74 years, has been accused by the OAU, international human rights organisations and U.N. officials of fomenting Namibia's U.N.-sponsored settlement plan by refusing to disband Koevoet.

U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar told OAU leaders Monday he would take whatever steps were necessary to prevent electoral fraud.

Perez de Cuellar said he was satisfied with the progress of Namibia's transition to independence, but shared concerns about the South African paramilitary

force. "The only real shadow (in Namibia) is the presence of Koevoet," Perez de Cuellar said. "I am making every effort to sort out this very, very serious concern."

The OAU summit put final touches to resolutions calling for sweeping sanctions against South Africa. Leaders also called for a fresh initiative to resolve the long-running Libya-Chad conflict.

Both countries lay claim to their border strip known as Azouzou, widely thought to be rich in minerals.

Perez de Cuellar also told a small group of reporters that he has no reliable information on the number of detainees being held in Angola by the SWAPO forces.

Perez de Cuellar said he discussed the issue with Nujoma in

Lusaka, Zambia, last week and that it remained a concern.

"I think it is not only a concern of the South African government, but the population would like to know the whereabouts of 2,000 men," Perez de Cuellar said.

Appearing with Perez de Cuellar shortly before his departure was Legwaila Joseph Legwaila, Botswana's U.N. ambassador and the secretary general's special representative for Namibia.

Legwaila said SWAPO released 201 detainees a few weeks ago and claims those were all it held.

"But as the secretary general has said, rumours are rife in Namibia that there are still 2,000 to 2,500 detainees in Angola," Legwaila said. "But so far there has been no concrete evidence as to the actual existence of detainees in Angola."

Cambodian rivals plan fresh, limited meeting

PARIS (R) — Four warring Cambodian factions whose talks broke down in acrimony Tuesday will meet again Thursday to prepare for an international conference on their country, resistance leader Prince Norodom Sihanouk said.

But he said the only thing they would discuss would be the composition of the 20-nation peace conference opening in Paris at the weekend.

"The meeting is just to solve one problem, the problem of the seating of the Cambodians," Sihanouk told a news conference. He said all four members of this week's abortive round-table talks would attend.

The talks collapsed Tuesday with Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen blaming the Khmer Rouge, whose guerrillas form the military backbone of the resistance coalition led by Sihanouk and former Prime Minister Son Sann.

The four parties were also unable to agree on how Cambodia should be represented at the international conference.

U.S. Secretary of State James Baker, his Soviet counterpart Eduard Shevardnadze and Chinese Foreign Minister Qian Qichen, whose country backs the Khmer Rouge, are due to attend the conference.

French diplomatic sources said the month-long gathering was not endangered by this week's setbacks.

The aim was to foster Cambodian reconciliation and moves to form a provisional government before Vietnam pulls its last 50,000 troops out of the country at the end of September.

Asked why he believed the talks could succeed Thursday, Sihanouk said: "Because they didn't work yesterday the French are asking us to continue our efforts so that we can take some small steps forward with the problem."

"But I repeat: the problem is not a problem between Cambodians. It's a problem between Cambodia and Vietnam. Hun Sen doesn't represent Cambodia, he represents Vietnam, Vietnamese colonialism," Sihanouk said.

The announcement by the former monarch, who has changed his position several times over the 18-month course of talks with Hun Sen, was greeted with laughter and applause by the media.

Newspaper reports of the turbulent talks between the rivals said Hun Sen had asked for one seat for his government and one for the resistance coalition at the talks, giving the Phnom Penh administration equal status with the guerrillas.

The resistance coalition wanted one single delegation with a chair each for the four leaders, including Khmer Rouge chief Khieu Samphan.

The Khmer Rouge, which governed Cambodia from 1975 to 1979, is blamed for the deaths of



A Cambodian refugee carries his baby on his shoulders and his possessions on his back as he walks to new home. Nearly 40,000 people living in

the Site 8 Khmer Rouge refugee camp near Aranyaprathet were taken to a new site after shelling from across the border.

at least one million people under its ultra-leftist rule.

The reports said France could now propose a compromise plan for four separate delegations, so that Sihanouk would be cut free of his mistrusted Khmer Rouge allies.

Diplomats who gave the four-

party negotiations little chance of success from the outset said Wednesday that the resistance groups were planning to grab chunks of Cambodian territory as bargaining chips for the day Vietnam leaves.

"The resistance saw failure coming in Paris. It's preparing for

the withdrawal of Vietnamese troops and plans to punch in to seize territory to use as a bargaining tool with Phnom Penh," one Bangkok-based diplomat said.

"You've got world statesmen coming this weekend and France is handing them a can of worms," a Western envoy said.

Sexcapades titillate Filipino masses, anger the mighty

By Robert H. Reid
The Associated Press

MANILA — As Japan reels from a sex scandal that helped topple a prime minister, the "sexcapades" of Philippine lawmakers are providing Filipinos with what has turned into a political soap opera.

On Monday, Japanese Prime Minister Sosuke Uno announced he would resign over his party's loss of 33 parliamentary seats due, in part, to public charges Uno had kept several paid mistresses.

Meanwhile, Philippine newspaper and radio commentators have been titillating their audiences with rumours of affairs by their own senators and members of the house of representatives. The only casualty so far has

been Senator Orlando Mercado, who resigned this month as senate majority leader after rumours that he was involved in a sex scandal. Mercado denies the allegation.

Mercado's resignation followed newspaper reports that an undisclosed senator had impregnated the daughter of an upper house colleague.

Last Friday, columnist Julie Yap Daza wrote in the Manila Standard that the latest rumour involved an unnamed woman senator who was having an affair with her chauffeur.

That ruffled the two women in the 23-member senate. Sen. Leticia Ramos-Shahani and Sen. Santanina Rasul demanded an investigation by the senate ethics committee to put a stop to the rumours.

According to another rumour, the chauffeur of a prominent male senator quit his job because of the pressure of trying to keep track of his boss' multiple mistresses.

In a Roman Catholic country that forbids divorce, keeping mistresses, referred to here as "second wives," is not uncommon. Some prominent figures make little attempt to hide their "second wives."

But some commentators fear the rumours cheapen the institutions of government, which were supposed to have elevated political life after the 1986 ouster of President Ferdinand Marcos.

The obsession with sex scandals also distracts public and legislative attention from pressing national problems such as

poverty, the communist insurgency and the breakdown in law and order.

"The point is that sex gossip about congress members has become conversation pieces no longer because of their serious moral implications but for their comic relief," wrote Hern Zenoarosa in the Philippines Journal.

Senate President Jovito Salonga has resisted an investigation into his colleagues' sex lives. The constitution provides for censure of congressmen guilty of "disorderly behaviour."

Salonga quipped that whatever happens in the bedroom "cannot be considered disorderly except by your mate." The rumours are fuelled by a Philippine newspaper practice

of printing thinly veiled accusations, often with no source at all for the information.

Such allegations rarely include names. Nonetheless, they are often accepted as truth by a public that still distrusts government after 20 years of misrule under Marcos.

"Who is that ranking congressman who regularly takes his girlfriend via government-owned helicopter to an island mountain resort?" wrote columnist Emil Jurado in the Manila Standard.

"Would you believe that an illegitimate son of a ranking member of Cory's (President Corason Aquino) cabinet has been appointed to a very juicy position in his father's department?" he added.

London-Rangoon row mushrooms over arrest

BANGKOK (R) — Burma's military rulers have barred British diplomats from meeting the British husband of opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi, who is under house arrest, Western diplomats said Wednesday.

They said Britain complained to the Burmese (Myanmar) Foreign Ministry and the Burmese ambassador in London after "unidentified civilians" turned away embassy officials from the house where Aung San Suu Kyi was confined last Thursday.

Official Rangoon Radio Tuesday denied authorities had arrested Oxford academic Michael Aris, who arrived in Rangoon last week, but said he was subject to the same rules as other family members staying at the opposition leader's home.

"Since Aung San Suu Kyi... has been prevented by law from going out of her home, all the members of her family who officially reside with her are also banned from meeting with foreign embassies, political parties and people who have contact with political parties," the radio said.

Aung San Suu Kyi and former Defence Minister Tin Oo, leaders of the main opposition party, the National League for Democracy, were placed under up to one year's house arrest by the military government last week for "endangering the state."

It was not clear how long Aris intended to stay. The radio quoted Foreign Ministry political department chief Ohn Gya as saying the Briton had finished his business in Burma.

"Aris had come to meet his family members and now that he has met them it must be assumed that the purpose of his visit has been fulfilled," he said.

The couple's two sons are also in the family home.

The London-based human rights group Amnesty International expressed concern over the arrest of the two party leaders and called for their immediate release. An Amnesty statement issued Monday urged that "if they are detained for their non-violent political activities and beliefs they be immediately and unconditionally released."

Aung San Suu Kyi, a 44-year-old academic is the daughter of assassinated national independence hero Aung San. She has spent most of her life abroad but returned to Rangoon last year to nurse her dying mother and became leader of an abortive uprising against decades of repressive rule.

The military rulers have released nearly 4,000 convicted criminals under a recent amnesty despite continuing martial law, the state newspaper reported Wednesday.



Aung San Suu Kyi

Under an amnesty announced last Thursday, death sentences were commuted to life imprisonment, life sentences reduced to 10 years and other existing terms cut by two-thirds of the original sentence. The order said criminal cases still being heard would be closed.

But the amnesty applies only to those who committed offenses before Sept. 18, 1988, and does not apply to cases of high treason or breaches of martial law regulations imposed since that date.

On Sept. 18, the military under Saw Maung moved to crush a nationwide mass movement for democracy, killing at least 500 people, most of them unarmed protesters. Under martial law since then, gatherings of more than five people are forbidden and freedom of speech is greatly curtailed.

Ruthless drug lord convicted in U.S.

NEW YORK (AP) — A drug dealer who introduced crack into some of New York's impoverished ghettos faces life in prison for murdering, shooting or maiming anyone who got in the way of his drug gang.

Deboy "Uzi" Edwards, a 30-year-old illegal alien from Jamaica, was convicted Tuesday in federal court of killing six people and injuring more than a dozen others in the operation of his drug empire.

Edwards glowered at the 12 members of the jury as the foreman said "guilty" to all 42 charges against him.

Jurors expressed concern for their safety before delivering their verdict, so U.S. District Judge Raymond J. Dearie ordered federal marshals to escort them from the courthouse. He assured them their names would not be revealed.

Edwards was convicted of participating in four murders in Brooklyn and one each in Washington and Baltimore to get rid of rival drug dealers and to maintain discipline in his ranks.

The jury, after five days' deliberation, also convicted Edwards of running a continuing criminal enterprise, 17 assaults and one maiming, as well as kidnapping and weapons charges.

The murder victims included

four of his employees, a rival drug dealer and an innocent bystander. The killings occurred during a 12-month period ending in December 1987.

"I assume he's going to appeal. Other than that I have no comment," said Edwards' court-appointed lawyer, David Gordon. Edwards faces several life sentences.

He also faces a state murder charge for a July 4, 1987, slaying in a Brooklyn discotheque.

Edwards, who has been in jail since his arrest in March 1988, was immediately returned to his cell at the Metropolitan Correctional Centre in New York City.

During the six-week trial in eastern U.S. district court, assistant U.S. attorney Jonny J. Frank described the brutality of the 50-member gang of Jamaican nationals headed by Edwards. The gang sold marijuana, cocaine and the cheap smokable form of cocaine called crack in Brooklyn and later extended their sales to Washington, Philadelphia and Baltimore.

In an indictment last December and in the prosecution's presentation to the jury, the government told of a drug operation that brought in up to \$100,000 a day. To Edwards' rival drug dealers and to employees that went astray, it brought mayhem.

14 Indian soldiers killed in Sri Lanka

COLOMBO (AP) — Fourteen Indian peacekeeping soldiers were killed and three injured when Tamil rebels detonated remote-controlled explosives in northeastern Sri Lanka, military officials said Wednesday.

The Indian soldiers were riding in a truck when the bombs exploded Tuesday at Mullipothurai, about 260 kilometres northeast of Colombo, the Sri Lankan officials said.

Officials at the Indian high commission, the equivalent of the country's embassy, said they had no immediate information on the report.

The Sri Lankan military officials said 17 Indian soldiers were in the truck when explosives buried in the road were detonated. The officials cannot be identified under briefing rules.

They blamed the attack on the major Tamil rebel group, the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE).

Tamil rebels started a violent campaign in 1983 to carve out a separate homeland on Sri Lanka, claiming their ethnic minority was being discriminated against by the Sinhalese majority.

Tamils form 18 per cent of the island's 16 million people, while Sinhalese make up 75 per cent and dominate the government and military.

Neighbouring India sent a peacekeeping force to Sri Lanka nearly two years ago to disarm the Tamil guerrillas and oversee a peace accord. But the Tamil Tigers refused to surrender their weapons.

President Ranasinghe Premadasa has demanded that India withdraw its troops by the end of July, but Indian officials contend a premature pullout would lead to even more violence. About 15,000 people, including 1,000 Indian soldiers, have been killed in the past six years of fighting and terrorism on the island.

Work in almost all state and commercial banks and some government and private offices in Colombo halted Wednesday as workers heeded a call by the Workers Action Front for a three-day protest against the Indian presence.

Hong Kong police deny brutality charge

HONG KONG (R) — Hong Kong police denied Wednesday reports that officers had beaten women, children and old people at a camp for Vietnamese boat people. The government promised a full investigation.

The office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) said it had evidence police lashed out with batons at Vietnamese boat people in Sek Kong camp Sunday as they received aid packages over a barbed wire fence from friends.

Area police commander Richard Smallbone denied that a considerable number of people had been injured or that police had beaten women, children and the elderly.

"There is no truth in that whatsoever. It has not come to our attention," he told government-run Hong Kong Radio.

He said only four people had been injured, and three of those were what he described as minor accidental injuries.

UNHCR officials reiterated Wednesday that a substantial number of people had been injured.

"The doctor and our field officer are still seeing people and the report will be ready later today," an official said.

One man died during the incident. Police sources said a post mortem revealed death was not from natural causes, though he had been ill before.

incident is going on now. As soon as we have the UNHCR report we shall investigate it very thoroughly," he said.

An initial police report on the incident issued Monday said stone-throwing Vietnamese attacked a police command post at the camp, which houses 7,200 boat people in makeshift tented accommodation on a military airfield.

The UNHCR report, confirmed by other refugee aid workers, said police used batons in their attempt to break up a crowd standing near a fence to catch aid packages.

The aid packages, containing toothbrushes and toiletries, were being thrown over by refugees from open camps, who have freedom of movement within Hong Kong.

Hanson said there was considerable tension within the colony's camps, caused by overcrowding as the government struggled to accommodate nearly 30,000 arrivals this year.

There are some 50,125 Vietnamese boat people in Hong Kong, of whom 36,000 arrived after the government introduced screening last year and began treating arrivals as illegal immigrants, to be held pending repatriation unless they could prove they were genuine refugees.

Britain and Hanoi are holding talks on forced repatriation for those screened out despite a UNHCR-sponsored voluntary repatriation programme.

Vietnamese government officials left Hong Kong Tuesday evening after leaving travel documents to 78 boat people.

COLUMN 8

Harrison knighted

LONDON (R) — Actor Rex Harrison was knighted by Queen Elizabeth Tuesday at Buckingham Palace as a royal guards band played tunes from "My Fair Lady" in tribute to his most memorable stage and screen role. The 81-year-old actor was dubbed Sir Rex, his real name, but will be known as Sir Rex. In an interview after his knighthood was announced last month, the six-times married Harrison joked: "I haven't been given one before now because I haven't behaved myself."

Model named Miss Black America

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — Paula Guyman, a 1.88-metre television producer and professional model from Washington, D.C., is the new Miss Black America. Miss Guyman, 22, was selected from among 46 contestants representing 37 states in the 21st annual pageant. Elaine Joyner, 28, Columbia, North Carolina, was second; Raquel Eaton, 19, Mansfield, Ohio, was third; and Tiffany Williams, 20, Abbeville, Louisiana, was fourth. The pageant, held in conjunction with the annual Indiana Black Expo, involved judging a swimsuit, public speaking and talent competitions.

City council breaks up over rubbish

VENICE (R) — Venice city council has broken up in disarray in a row over a concert by British rock group Pink Floyd after which the lagoon city awoke to find its streets and squares choked with rubbish. Six socialist councillors have resigned, denouncing the governing coalition's working majority. The socialist want Venice to stage a six-month-long event — called Expo 2000 — but a majority of the council opposes the idea following the Pink Floyd debacle. Councillors came under heavy fire for permitting the free concert July 15 without providing anywhere for more than 150,000 fans to sleep, eat or go to the toilet. The following morning St. Mark's Square, a noted tourist attraction, was buried under tons of rubbish.

No 'big names' in U.S. sex probe

WASHINGTON (AP) — Federal investigators have said they have uncovered no evidence that high-ranking government officials used a homosexual prostitution ring or that other patrons have been blackmailed by the escort service. "It was a credit card case, in the beginning, and it still is," said one law enforcement source who spoke only on condition of anonymity. "There has been no indication yet of blackmail, espionage, or big names in this."

The Secret Service, which conducted raids on a posh northwest Washington home in February and May as part of a probe into the string of escort services, is involved in the case because of its traditional jurisdiction over credit card fraud, said spokesman Robert Snow. The Secret Service also is conducting a separate, internal investigation of two uniformed officers accused of allowing lobbyist Craig Spence to take several prostitutes on late-night White House tours. One officer has admitted accepting an expensive watch from Spence and giving him a piece of Truman China. Paul Balach, a personnel officer in Labour Secretary Elizabeth Dole's office, resigned after the Washington Times reported that credit card receipts bearing his name had been found by investigators. U.S. attorney Jay B. Stephens has said that his phase of the probe involves only allegations of credit card fraud.

Fourteen people, including three soldiers and two policemen, were killed in the past 24 hours in the Sinhalese heartland of southern and central Sri Lanka, officials said. They blamed the JVP for all the deaths.

Global weather

(major world cities)

	MM	MAX	
AMSTERDAM	16	23	73
ATHENS	22	34	93
BAHRAIN	31	40	104
BANGKOK	26	79	88
Buenos Aires	06	42	108
CAIRO	22	72	85
CHICAGO	21	70	81
COPENHAGEN	15	59	27
FRANKFURT	17	63	29
GENEVA	17	63	28
HONG KONG	28	82	88
ISTANBUL	13	64	28
LONDON	18	66	78
LOS ANGELES	17	59	28
MADRID	18	64	28
MEXICO	28	84	103
MONTREAL	22	58	32
MOSCOW	11	52	19
NEW DELHI	28	82	95
NEW YORK	23	73	81
PARIS	14	61	44
ROME	17	63	36
SYDNEY	11	62	15
TOKYO	26	77	31
VIENNA	19	56	35

M - indicates missing information.

